



Royal College of Nursing
Shaping nursing since 1916

Council

Date of meeting:	28 April 2016
Title of Paper:	RCN Students Committee
Appendices:	None
Presented by:	Sylvia Duval, Chair of RCN Students Committee
Is a decision required? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

1. The RCN Students Committee met on 19 February 2016

Ways of working

2. We began our meeting with a discussion on future ways of working. We were joined by Chair of Council, Michael Brown, and Chief Executive & General Secretary Janet Davies and we discussed how we would like to work going forward to ensure that our voice is heard on major issues such as the student bursary and on the nursing education agenda more widely.
3. We will be holding a meeting with the Chair of the Governance Support Committee to discuss changes we would like to see to the way we work.

Student Information Officers in the West Midlands

4. We had a presentation from Paul Vaughan on how Student Information Officers are supported to shape and develop their roles in

the West Midlands region.

5. We were very impressed with programme ran in the West Midlands and would like to see the rest of the RCN adopt a similar and consistent approach.

Communication with members and the Member Access to Information project

6. We were updated on the work of the Communications Department and welcomed the Access to Member Information project which we anticipate will enable us to network and communicate much more effectively with SIO's and student members of the college.

RCN Students and the NUS

7. We agreed to continue to work to develop our relationship with the National Union of Students. We hope to produce a joint leaflet to signpost nursing students to the right sources of advice and information.

Student funding and bursaries

8. We heard that the government consultation on its plans to replace bursaries with student loans in England was expected to be published in early March.
9. The Chief Executive & General Secretary congratulated us on our efforts to oppose the proposal and managing to get a question raised in the House of Commons during PMQs.
10. We discussed the response to the consultation and expressed our concerns and disappointment at how the proposals with impact on nursing students individually as well as potentially discourage students from applying to undertake nursing degrees.

Congress 2016

11. We agreed the student programme for Congress 2016 and were pleased to note that one of our submissions has been recommended to Council for inclusion on the Congress agenda.

The RCN professional offer for students

12. We were updated on the RCN's professional offer including the RCN's work on developing career pathways, defining standards, influencing the post-registration regulatory framework, and the development of RCN accreditation and credentialling.
13. We were also updated on the RCN's mentorship project and invited to contribute to the RCN summit on the 29 April.

RCN Foundation centenary bursaries

14. Finally we were excited to learn that the RCN Foundation is offering financial support to ten nursing students to attend the RCN's International Centenary Conference in London on 22 and 23 November, and we will be encouraging students to apply.

Sylvia Duval

Student member of Council and Chair of the RCN Students Committee