

## Welfare Committee Meeting

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Time: 17:00pm

1. Sana Spoke to the VC about counselling in different languages. The outcome of this was as follows: having a one to one session with a counsellor in a different language comes with a lot of complexities and the university is not ready to promise us that. However they think we should do group counselling in different languages instead, so basically the way it would work is that 8/10 people can join the session, and we will have a counsellor there who will talk in a different language, and all the students can talk to each other and the counsellor in that specific language. If the counsellor thinks someone needs serious help, they would ask them to talk to the university counsellors which would be in English language.
2. Welfare committee will fill out the library questionnaire.
3. Name for the Mature Students event in January? The Name 'Mature Students' is fine but maybe needs another word at the end. Mature Students Association, Mature Students Network... what have other universities used?
4. Lily – Sana Lily needs to talk to Allison about the help line number for the green accommodation & unite behind student ids.
5. We have a budget for the Cost-of-living Crisis, but what to do with the money for the best way to help students at Aston?
  - More packages
  - Lounge & university catering prices reduced to affordable cost
  - £1.00 meal which is not pasta. Can we rotate it weekly?
  - New student starter packs which includes: pillow duvet, aware booklet of near shops that are affordable & different items you can get where, local restaurants that are affordable, cultural knowledge about Birmingham and which there is to do that is free/ lower cost's outdoors & indoors.
  - Nifty thrifty here at all times where people can donate & swap clothes & books all year round.
  - Travel expenses – affordable deals (public transport, taxi, car)
  - More water bottle refill stations & free teas & coffee areas over campus, around study spaces.
6. Can Natalie (Aston SU wellbeing coordinator) send over the wellbeing volunteer programme when completed to the committee.