Thank you for the opportunity to give feedback to the University's Strategic Plan.

After having talked with many of my fellow Greek alumni and some undergrads as well, I offer the following thoughts:

I recognise that involvement in extra-curricular activities represents a bonus to campus life as well as to the potential success of students. These groups therefore need to be supported, and the University and Students' Union do a good job of engaging with and empowering these groups.

While there is a terrific diversity of student groups, not every student finds the time or will to join one. I wonder if there would be a useful process to incentivise joining a group? Perhaps the membership fees (to a maximum value) could be deducted from tuition, or a small but meaningful amount of credit could be given for serving on an executive board of a student group?

I am reminded of Stephen Leacock's wry opinion on founding a university. He stated that were he able to do just that, he'd start with an association of students: "a smoking room; then when I had a little more money in hand I would found a dormitory; then after that, or more probably with it, a decent reading room or library. After that, if I had some more money that I couldn't use, I would hire a professor and get some textbooks."

There are many anecdotal stories of those who, despite adversity, have continued on to a successful and fulfilling university experience due to the positive influence of a group of peers, especially a student group or club. I am happy to discover that there is a growing body of empirical evidence to back this up and urge the ISP team to incorporate this into the future of the University to assure that students not only survive but flourish as they access the social good that is a contemporary education.

Thank you for your kind attention to my submission. I look forward to reading the completed document.