



Education Committee

St Andrews Students Association

Meeting date: Thursday 4th November 2021, 6pm (Microsoft Teams)

AGENDA

1. Welcome and housekeeping **5mins**

- a.** Welcome to Nathan
- b.** Reports and apologies
- c.** Weekly emails
- d.** Workload and delegation help with Chase

(Sci Med FP)

- Nathan Cuttica (SP Philosophy) introduces himself as the new School President of Philosophy.
- Reports and Apologies
 - o SPs remember to send your report in via the form that is emailed EVERY WEEK.
 - o SPs remember to send your apologies to Alice at aar20@st-andrews.ac.uk
- Weekly emails
 - o SPs remember to send emails to your school EVERY WEEK
- Workload and delegation help with Chase

- *Action Point:* SPs who are struggling with workload, etc. contact Chase.
- *Comment:* Chase messages in the chat: “I promise not to turn a session workload into more work for you. I’m happy to chat and help you come up with a plan to feel less stressed and overloaded if you’re feeling that way.”

2. Library and Study Space Updates

(Graeme Hawes)

- Graeme Hawes gives an update on the Library and study spaces.
 - The more students that are in the library the more likely closures due to Covid cases are.
 - 50 more seats were released at the beginning of Week 8.
 - The drop-in study space seats in the library have been well received by students.
 - Current capacity in the main library: 40 people.
- *Question:* CM (SP English) asks if the library will give updates on the IG and Facebook when there are closures for cleaning or updates on increase of study spaces. *Answer:* Graeme responds that the unscheduled cleaning was posted about on all the social media as soon as they could. Graeme will look into posting things on the main university account as well.
- *Question:* CS (SP Music) asks in the chat if the students who were in the library today that there was a positive case? *Answer:* The reason for the closure is not a secret. There has been no known transmission of Covid in the library since the beginning of the pandemic.
- Graeme gives an update looking forward:
 - Finalizing the list of study spaces for the run up to revision week and exam period.
- Graeme asks the SPs if they know if their students will be staying in St Andrews for exams or planning on leaving/doing them from home.
 - LG (FP ArtDiv) suspects some students to go home for exams for comfort but to expect more students rather than fewer.
 - CM (SP English) points out that the Academic Registrar are doing a survey on this and says that it is always best to have more spaces than needed than fewer. Suggests having the library café open on weekends during revision.
 - *Response:* Graeme responds that changes to the café will hopefully happen next semester.
 - FL (SP Management) says that based on people she’s spoken to most people are staying in St Andrews.
- *Question:* TR (SP Phys & Astro) asks in the chat: “If there are closures would it be possible to have all students emailed if the library is shut on

short notice?” because some students must go far to get to the library and do not use social media. *Answer:* Graeme will raise the point, but this would not be easy to do.

- The library will be open for most of Winter Break but with different opening hours.
- *Action Point:* SPs and LCs to reach out to their students to remind them to wear masks in the library and other study spaces where they are required.
 - o *Comment:* NC (SP Philosophy) suggests a possible rewards/punishments system for those who do not.
 - o *Comment:* CM (SP English) suggests changing the signage and campaign for mask wearing.
 - o *Comment:* TR (SP Phys & Astro) points out the differences between English and Scottish guidelines probably confuse students.
- Email gh30@st-andrews.ac.uk or library@st-andrews.ac.uk with any more feedback.

3. Academic Representation Strategy

(DoEd)

- Current strategic plan:
<https://www.yourunion.net/pageassets/union/policiesandprocedures/strategicplan/strategic-plan-17-20.pdf>
- Leonie asks all SPs if there are any strategy points they'd like to contribute.
 - o FL (SP Management) would like a Canva premium subscription for all SPs.
 - The Edu Exec team now has Canva premium and are figuring out how to get that to all SPs.
 - o CS (SP Music) would like there to be more resources directed to Music within the Union and a wider support network. Suggests a possible permanent music staff member in the Union.
 - o TR (Phys & Astro) would like better support for SPs and LCs and other volunteers so they can focus more on their manifestos.
 - Leonie agrees that this is an issue in representation.
 - o RM (SP Comp Sci) would like a system of support for SPs and LCs for managing committees in their schools.
 - TR seconds RM's point in the chat.
 - Sarah points out there will be a member of staff for Society support that will help with situations like this.
 - LG (FP ArtDiv) points out that all SPs have the ability to delegate committees right now.
- Leonie asks for all SPs to contact her if they think of anything to add to this list of strategy points.

4. Online Events Training

(ARC)

- Chase introduces a possible SP or Community and Events rep training on Online Events.
- Chase asks for feedback on whether this would be helpful.
 - o CM (SP English) says this would be helpful more for Community and Events reps rather than SPs. Would add a training on booking spaces for in-person events.
 - o TR (SP Phys & Astro) says to not make it mandatory for SPs and LCs.

5. Survey

(DoEd)

- <https://forms.office.com/r/Vf4cHRN7Xc>
- TISG – Teaching Infrastructure Steering Group has asked for feedback on what kind of outdoor study spaces the University should invest in.
- *Action Point:* SPs to fill these out and Leonie (DoEd) will take back the information to the next TISG meeting.
- Note: TISG would rather not heat the spaces.
- *Action Point:* SPs to encourage Staff who are struggling with technology to reach out to IT services.

6. AOCB

- SP and Edu Exec Introduction Posts:
 - o https://www.canva.com/design/DAErT8ZH2_I/LNKKWzJ12uQlgeNkIx_tMpA/view?utm_content=DAErT8ZH2_I&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link&utm_source=viewer
 - o Email any changes to these introduction posts to aar20@st-andrews.ac.uk before Monday November 8th.
- Self-care is important – SPs take care as everything gets more stressful this time of year!

Additional Information: