



Education Committee
St Andrews Students Association

Meeting date: Thursday 5th November 2020 (6pm) MS Teams

Absent without apologies: Erik Crnkovich, Jeanne Adam

Absent with apologies: Belinda Hawes

MINUTES

1. Welcome

- CF - Thank you for coming to Dodgeball

2. Director of Wellbeing update

- Discussion of what is available to students – how to signpost information to students as a school president
- Presentation as a result of School President Forum discussions and subsequent meetings with Amy and Joe
- Director of Wellbeing presented on signposting for SPs
- **ACTION** - information will go out with content to all SPs
- DoWell elucidated that the DoEd was her ‘beautiful little assistant’
- **ACTION** – in the New Year, information will go out about wellbeing officers
- Sarah Johnston – thanked DoWell for presentation. If someone comes to you with confidential information, who do you send them to for appropriate support?
 - DoWell – passing forward to Student Services, use judgement not to share this beyond. The new **Report and Support** system coming out – new tool to support students.
- Imaan Kotadia – thank you for the presentation. Issue within the School where students complain that there isn’t enough support. What should the School be providing that the University doesn’t already provide – how to put this in a positive, sensitive way?
 - DoWell – a University-wide feeling right now; Student Services has significant waiting times, so I understand the feeling. Push students towards the more

diverse range of services available – maybe not just triaging everything to Student Services.

- CF – there will be a discussion about buddy systems later, so DoWell is welcome to stay on
- Geraint Morgan – can SPs refer people to peer support?
 - DoWell – you can do either self-referring or SPs can refer directly (emailing peersupport@ about concerns with individual students)
- Geraint Morgan – Chaplaincy are good for ‘soft’ support services and having an adult to talk to; there aren’t too significant waiting times for this – another point of contact.
- Sarah Johnston – does a flow chart exist for how to deal with issues (options for students)?
 - DoWell – this is something DoEd and I put the information in for in August (still waiting for this)
 - DoEd – template sits with the Design Team, so this will be put into place with the minutes.
 - **ACTION** – JH to send out with minutes
- Sarah Johnston – Student Services are very overburdened; will the University use something beyond SilverCloud?
 - DoWell – Yes, the Uni is in the process of looking for something to give to students; in the process of outsourcing some therapists and councillors. Issue with getting more staff = getting staff who want to live in St Andrews is an obstacle. Fully online therapists are a system which could work, so Student Services are looking for more of this.

3. Updates from SWAG

- Chloe Fielding – talk about transparent masks in lectures; people with audio processing issues would be able to hear more easily? Disability Coordinator in the Union suggested the problem could be worse. Asking for SP feedback on this issue.
 - Geraint Morgan – in my experience, this isn’t so much of an issue for online learning. APD - you can hear everything but separating noises out is more difficult. Plastic shield more deadening to sound than fabric; would however help with lip-reading
 - Chloe Fielding – dealt with on a module level?
 - Geraint Morgan – it has to be dealt with on a module level – has to be done in response to individual issues
- Lucy Matthews – some staff might not be comfortable with wearing them. Languages pushed for visors, but a lot of staff don’t feel safe.
 - Chloe Fielding – it is staff decision on this one, they are permitted to wear just a visor or a mask
- Sarah Johnston – horizontal vs vertical groupings in lecture theatres for group discussion – discussion along a row versus up and down a lecture hall. Something that was raised in Physics – groupings in triangles and squares. Helps with volume rather than perhaps APD.
- Brynne Stewart – relating to what Lucy and Geraint said; should be done on a module basis. You can’t wear a visor while wearing safety glasses in Biology
- **ACTION** – CF will take these points forward as feedback
- Chloe Fielding – how isolation wellbeing affects studying, how to bridge this gap

4. Study Spaces and Buddy Schemes

- Camiel Leake – buddy system especially for first years to increase human contact. Would other Schools have similar systems? Do other schools have something like this?
- Imaan Kotadia – we don't have inter-year group scheme, but coffee round-robin worked. People met new people each week which was quite effective. Buddy scheme hasn't been implemented on a large scale before. Wellbeing issues stem from issues with academia quite a bit at St Andrews. Having a broad-brush form to help with this might help.
- Joe Horsnell – is working in this area and encouraged SPs to send in thoughts on this issue
- Ryan Gibb – first year reps have organised lab pairing scheme
- Joe Horsnell – be careful with TGAP
- Sarah Johnston – confusion with centralised system vs School system; might cause issues with confusion over different systems. CEED sign-ups for first years happened before the start of semester. 80 students missed the buddy scheme as a result!
- Amy Gallacher – the scheme is designed to take a lot of work off of the SP's role, so we're attempting to link up CEED with the Saints Study Support group
- Callum Irvine – we had something set up in English last year; only survived one year because that person left
- Geraint Morgan – could this be an expansion pack to run a buddy scheme?
- Joe Horsnell – please send me your thoughts if we haven't gotten through your feedback!
- **ACTION** – All SPs – send JH your thoughts on Study Buddy scheme
- **ACTION** – JH to take this issue forward on behalf of the DoEd and alongside the DoWell

5. Environmental Strategy

- ESB created by the University
- Project about Sustainability in the Curriculum and of teaching practices
- Sir Ian Boyd is chair of the ESB and this has the Principal's support
- Abi Whitefield - will send out the strategy and is asking for feedback through the consultation
- Sarah Johnston – layout of the proposal is hard to work out where the actions actually are; doesn't understand what is happening for the points. Might be good to make this more accessible if students are being asked for feedback?
 - Abi Whitefield – this is good feedback
- Geraint Morgan – had a quick look; one thing which concerns reading subjects is 'intelligent use of digital resources'. Wants some caution around this; accounting for students using cheaper printing methods than the Uni's?
 - Abi Whitefield – another good point. We don't know what students are doing. Will go away to mention this.
- Camiel Leake – nothing about sustainability in sub-honours classes – this is important to include. It feels added on to quite technical things.
 - Abi Whitefield – good point; TESA's introduction as matriculation module should hopefully improve this
- Brynne Stewart – everything used in Biology is single-use and disposable; as a side-effect of sustainability will student lab experience be diminished
 - Abi Whitefield – not sure about the solutions here

- Amy Gallacher – this will be going to LTC, so please send Abi your feedback
- **ACTION** – AW to take this feedback forward; AW will send out an email to SPs with details of the consultation

6. Lab spaces in Chemistry

- Camiel Leake - Study spaces closed at the weekends for Chemistry – specialised software is unavailable to students
- Sarah Johnston – 24/7 access for third years and above for Physics. AppsAnywhere should enable access from any St Andrews computer. Could Chemists come to the Physics building? Will ask the building manager about that.
- Imaan Kotadia – Irvine Building is 24/7 to access computers
- Brynne Stewart – some AppsAnywhere software is only available on St A PCs
- Imaan Kotadia – logging in via a remote desktop programme could be the answer
- **ACTION** – SJ to take this away to Physics Building manager

7. SPAG Updates

- Joe Horsnell – offered a SPAG update and ran through the email that was sent out earlier on today
- **ACTION** – All SPs – complete the three actions in the SPAG update email

Meeting adjourned 7pm.