



Education Committee

St Andrews Students' Association

Thursday 8th October 2020 (6pm) via MS Teams
MINUTES

Present:

Amy Gallacher (DoEd), Joseph Horsnell (Arts and Divinity Faculty President), Chloe Fielding (Science and Medicine Faculty President), Abi Whitefield (Postgraduate Academic Convenor)

Hannah Koegler (Art History SP), Brynne Stewart (Biology SP), Camiel Leake (Chemistry SP), Erik Crnkovich (Classics SP), Ryan Gibb (Computer Science SP), Lowell So (Divinity SP), Belinda Hawes (Earth Sciences SP), Callum Irvine (English SP), Teo Yarkova (Film Studies SP), Imaan Kotadia (Geography and SD SP), Geraint Morgan (History SP), George Watts (International Relations SP), Murray Whyte (Maths SP), Lucy Matthews (Modern Languages SP), Ursula Goldsmith (Music SP), Rachel Neighbour (Philosophy SP), Sarah Johnston (Physics and Astronomy SP), Lindsay Nielsen (Psychology and Neuroscience SP), Elinor Layne (Social Anthropology SP), Sanjana Ramaswamy (Economics SP), Orrin McAleer (Medicine SP)

Emma Johnston (Arabic/Persian Convenor), Maddie Lee (Comparative Literature Convenor), Antonia Cahill (French Convenor), Eva Halliday (German Convenor), Helen Clinton (Italian Convenor), Elodie Phillips (Russian Convenor), Rohan Date (Spanish Convenor)

In attendance: Akshika Kandage (BAME Education Officer), Andrea Ritchie, Chase Greenfield (PGR Interns)

Absent with apologies:

Absent without apologies: Jeanne Adam (Management SP)

MINUTES

Chloe introduced the meeting and adopted the agenda.

1. PG Interns introduction
 - Andrea introduced herself to the group
 - Chase introduced himself to the group
 - Amy explained they are joining EduCom in an observational capacity
2. Amy's updates
 - **Marquee space** – questions from last week have been answered; please keep asking them!
 - Reps have discussed running events, but this will have to go through Presidents
 - The form for marquees has been sent to SPs
 - Sarah – question about how pods can connect; Amy says they cannot directly connect due to number restrictions
 - Teo – can we have screenings? Amy says yes, it is being looked at
 - Eva – idea sharing in Teams? Joe suggested using the Facebook page
 - Lindsay – situation with alcohol? Answer is no; discussion around alcohol
 - Joe makes the point that School Presidents should be making sure events are inclusive and avoid alcohol where possible; this is a point about inclusivity
 - Imaan – does the event have to be educational? Yes – because otherwise they are gatherings
 - **Communication from DoTs about lecture sharing** – Deans split on whether more information is required
 - Imaan – hasn't add anything more from DoT, word of mouth has made this much easier now so perhaps another isn't needed
 - > Joe leaves, resulting in a grumble of silence and an evident lifting of spirits amongst the cone-lovers.

Minutes from this point taken by the International Relations President

- Communication with the Dean about Team's privacy
- > Geraint: word of mouth, yes, but this isn't sufficiently serious for people to understand.
- > Imaan: better coming from departments than the Deans. Slightly lighter touch and wouldn't bring too much attention to the event. In G&SD it's moved on
- > DoEd: Deans happy for us to draft something, passed on to DoTs and then circulated if DoTs so wish.
- > SciPres: best coming from DoT. Reduces overkill.
- >DoEd: mention to DoTs. Make sure it isn't lost. Comfortable raising attention to it? A solitary nod. Taken as a success.
- Remote Study Policy
- Amy's final monologuing point.
- To the group: how aware are we?

- IRPres suggests that university needs to be clearer
- Amy: are you aware that it has changed?
- Everyone: yes, sort of.
- It has changed. 'General anxiety' is now a legitimate thing to do.
- Geraint: in his tutorial the morning, students said that although policy has changed it seems the available form hasn't been altered. Hasn't followed this up.
- Callum: Seen the new form, and thinks removal of 'you being anxious is not a valid reason' clause is good. Wants to throw out the idea that the uni isn't getting great feedback re: dual delivery. Anecdotally, it has not been fab.
- Sarah: Hasn't heard of anyone being denied it. There's the dual situation of people scared off, but haven't actually said no.
- Rachel: Students aren't that aware that it's changed because they received so much initial communication.
- Sarah: Uni needs to be careful not to be ableist when circulating emails. 'You need to go to your lecture', but some can't who are high risk. It'd be nice if someone from disabilities team could check they're not using exclusionary language.
- Imaan: tendency to communicate things in a way that make you feel guilty for not going to in person teaching. Not a case of us not being grateful, it's a health concern. This needs to be communicated better. Less mixed messaging.
- Geraint: must be careful in how we communicate these dual-delivery concerns. Difficult pedagogically to structure a class. Staff have just been told 'right here's the tech (that often doesn't work)'. Expected to run with it. Uni management issue rather than a staff issue.
- *lots of chat activity, can't keep up*
- Lucy: some courses just can't give you the same value online. Dynamic with some being there and some being beamed in. Is separate classes a feasible solution? This is running in some schools.
- Teo: department dependent. Filmed some staff for online, some in person.
- Eva: Even if dual delivery is there it can't be the real thing. The uni has been marketing it as the dream, as perfection. Never actually fully articulated what it means. Everyone is trying to understand what it *actually means*.
- Antonia: Language classes aren't feasible. As much as we would love in person and an online thing, we just don't have big enough classes for it. Uni saying to staff they can't do it all online. Consensus between staff and students is we want it all online, but they're doing dual delivery under duress from management.
- Emma: a lot of burden on staff to have separate classes. Should be a university management question. The staff aren't kept very much in the loop, but it doesn't seem like they want to be in person.
- Sarah: for those who don't know, Physics returned to full in-person from week 3. Solution we came to is working out the fraction of students who wanted online and so just have a total re-do of tutorial sign ups.
- Rohan: how does this work with isolation? Obviously numbers aren't stable.
- Eva: Uni expecting us to have in person tutorials with lecturers who are coming from quasi-locked-down areas.
- Sarah: every subject has at least one online tutorial and then everyone who is self-isolating/ generally ill you can drop into online instead. It's not a guarantee it'll be as personable, but you'll have it nonetheless.
- Ryan: CompSci has had a scheduling nightmare.

3. Introduction of BAME Education Officer

- Chloe: thinking we could change topic and let Akshika introduce herself.
- Akshika: 3rd year IR and Philo student. Education officer for BAME student network. Her plans for this year: main job is to push forward changes. Help us with implementing the things we'd like in our school. If Akshita could get a feel for what each of us is doing, that's great.
- Geraint suggests having meetings with four or five schools at once rather than doing a big round now as that would take a long time. Hannah suggests a google form.
- Imaan: in terms of what you'd like to know, is that based on what SPs want to do, or what the school is doing? Response ⇒ ideally like to know both.
- Sarah had a quick question. Could you describe your role in the context of what we should be contacting you about?
- Akshika: would like to know whatever your suggestions are. Can also connect us with people who could help us out.
- Imaan: is this uni affiliated or something students have picked up by themselves? Maybe could get access to EDI reports?
- Hannah: Art History is having an internal audit for EDI issues. Could we have some suggestions on what this internal audit should/could look like?
- Akshika will do a few schools at a time and organise a meeting. Helpful to track everything down. Working on some guidelines for schools. Based on things she feels need to be changed re: how tutorials are run. Thinking of making a five point plan but will need a lot of approval first. In the works.

Amy

- Thank you for sharing your thoughts on my points. Don't have time for online teaching survey. Herself and Dan are currently drafting the recs to the uni. One involves giving students choice independent of situation.
- Re: ableist language in emails, will be raised with Uni Comms team. Really appreciate you raising it.
- Not going to go through everything, but will send through notes on the facebook group.
- The review of dual delivery going on in ILW. **FILL OUT THE FORM ON YOUR COMMENTS WHICH IS DUE MONDAY**
- Concern about online reps. They won't get access to mass messaging service. The emailing list will be provided to us for us to manage, and they will email *through* us, as will normally have been the case.
- School Pres forum in this timeslot next week. Calling for agenda points on Monday