



**Education Committee**  
St Andrews Students Association

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**Meeting date:** Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021, 6pm (Microsoft Teams)

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**AGENDA**

1. Welcome and housekeeping **5 mins**

- a. Finalising Class Reps
- b. Employability Survey

(Art Div FP)

- Finalizing Class Reps
  - o *Action Point:* SPs try to finish co-opting class reps as soon as possible
    - SPs reach out to Edu Exec if help is needed.
- Employability Survey
  - o *Deadline:* Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021
- Postgraduate Elections
  - o *Action Point:* SPs advertise the elections in the weekly emails and nudge any postgrads who may be good in the job.
  - o Link to nudge form:  
[https://standrews.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cV1jjvTcYZl03P0](https://standrews.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cV1jjvTcYZl03P0)

2. Motion on in-person teaching **15 mins**

(Kian Cross)

- Refer to previous meeting minutes – RM (SP CompSci) on in-person teaching
- Kian Cross has written a motion for the SA to have a stance on in-person teaching
  - o Kian – the purpose of the motion: Transparency, communication, consistency. To have a clarified stance from the SA speaking for the students and what they would like.

- Kian hopes this will inevitably help increase the amount of in-person teaching.
- Questions/Comments with Kian:
  - *Question:* TR (SP Phys & Astro) asks how Kian would handle people who are not comfortable to be in larger lectures. TR points out that 601 is a choice whereas lectures etc. are not. *Answer/Response:* Kian responds that removing the 35-person limit will take away the one size fits all requirement. It would give the Schools more choice. Says if 601 is 'safe' then why would in-person teaching not also be safe.
    - *Response from TR:* TR states that putting people who are not comfortable with more than 35 people in a room online will create a new problem.
  - *Comment:* CM (PG Academic Convenor) says the University is aware of this issue and the 35 is not an arbitrary number. The 35 is a suggestion from the government; same goes for library bookings. This matter has been taken to the Proctor. Advice: Get in touch with the Proctor to get up to date on the government guidelines.
  - *Comment:* RM (SP CompSci) wants to make the point that the university has said that an online class is equivalent to an in-person class which is not necessarily the case. RM points out that there is an inconsistency in the School of CS.
  - *Comment:* Kian points out that at some point a transition needs to be made towards in-person teaching.
- Kian leaves the call for SP only discussion.
- Questions/Comments without Kian:
  - *Comment:* FL (SP Management) says that in schools that are smaller increasing the number might be fantastic, but for larger schools a small increase in numbers will not make a change.
  - *Question:* RB (SP International Relations) asks if there will be a vote on whether to support the motion or not. *Answer:* SPs will receive an email from Kian to sign onto the motion. SPs can sign as SP or as an individual – if signed as an SP that signature would represent the entire school.

### 3. Student Diversity Officers **10 mins**

(Salma Ali; English SP)

- Salma Ali from the BAME Biology Team would like to gauge interest about having a diversity officer in each school.
- Link to Salma's slides:
 

[https://universityofstandrews907.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/SchoolPresidents2021-22/Shared%20Documents/General/EduCom\\_presentation%20%5bAuto-saved%5d.pptx?d=w1bf67aab8c9844b1bc45af3c2ea07f63&csf=1&web=1&e=E8fvID](https://universityofstandrews907.sharepoint.com/:p:/r/sites/SchoolPresidents2021-22/Shared%20Documents/General/EduCom_presentation%20%5bAuto-saved%5d.pptx?d=w1bf67aab8c9844b1bc45af3c2ea07f63&csf=1&web=1&e=E8fvID)
- Proposal from Salma: SPs take the lead to create either a student position or a committee about equality
  - Could be anything but important to have someone working towards racial justice and anti-racist change!
  - This is important because changes made from higher up tend to get diluted when coming down to the schools, so by each school having a diversity officer, there would always be someone right in the mix.
  - 7 step plan to start this is on the slides linked above.

- *Question:* SN (SP Chemistry) asks what if there are not enough people who volunteer for this role or committee. *Answer:* Salma's advice is to send out emails to gauge interest or approach those you think would be good for the committee.
- Send questions to Salma directly by email: [saaa2@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:saaa2@st-andrews.ac.uk)

#### 4. Behaviour and expectations **5 mins**

- Email policy
- Expectations and required parts of the role
- New tracking discipline policy

(Art Div FP; Sci Med FP)

- A reminder of SP and LC behavior expectations
- The FPs and DoEd have noticed that some SPs and LCs have not been doing everything they need to. – Not something to be guilty about, but something to be aware of.
- Email policy: Answer emails within 48 hours.
- Rules from SPs and LCs
  - o SPs must come to EduCom every week. If an SP cannot, they must send apologies.
  - o SPs must submit a report every week and at the end of the semester. That is not optional.
  - o SPs must chair their SSCCs and attend EDI.
- Tracking discipline policy:
  - o Will be in a more detailed email.
- Questions on this – direct them to Edu Exec via email.

#### 5. SSCCs **5 mins**

(Sci Med FP)

- *Action Point:* SPs make sure to be well-prepared for your SSCC.
  - o Ask Class Reps and Staff members about the agenda but ultimately SPs have full control of what is on it.
  - o SPs are *in charge* of the meeting
- SSCC guidance:  
[https://universityofstandrews907.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SchoolPresidents2021-22/EcVGjeXb0FZNSr7EXhQQoBwB96gc\\_\\_V2fkR-N\\_eycmxh1Q?e=nqO3eD](https://universityofstandrews907.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/SchoolPresidents2021-22/EcVGjeXb0FZNSr7EXhQQoBwB96gc__V2fkR-N_eycmxh1Q?e=nqO3eD)
- Direct questions to FPs by email
- *Question:* JB (SP Divinity) asks how to check when the SSCC dates are.  
*Answer:* The SP creates the dates of the meeting. Advice: Check in with your schools DOT.
- *Question:* HL (SP Art History) asks about whether they are inviting the PG reps to the SSCC. *Answer:* The attendance of the meeting is up to the SP. But if there is anything that has to do with the entire school, the recommendation is to invite the PGs to attend.

- CM (PG Academic Convenor) seconds this and adds that PGT students should attend the SSCC but not the PGR students.
- *Question:* SA (SP SocAnth) asks how involved SPs should be in the separate PG SSCC. *Answer:* This has been left up to the discretion of the schools.
  - Email Caroline McWilliams if there are more questions on PGs.

## 6. Better supporting commuter students **5 mins**

(Physics SP)

- TR (SP Phys & Astro) has heard about a lack of adequate support for commuting students with study spaces. TR is looking into how to better support these students in each school and was wondering if any other SP had similar issues either currently or in the past and has any suggestions of initiatives to consider.
- *Comment:* RB (SP International Relations) points out that Beacon Bar was supposed to be just for commuting students but that has not been enforced. There is a commuting students society as well to reach out to.
  - More information: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/support/commuter-students/>

## 7. University-based internship event **5 mins**

(Soc Anth SP)

- All SPs will be invited to the FB event.
- Link to the event: <https://fb.me/e/XFtljFd>

## 8. SP and LC Social **5 mins**

(SciMed FP)

- Social after EduCom on October 7<sup>th</sup>
- More information will be coming from Alice and Leonie early next week
- *Action Point:* Do a lateral flow test before if you are planning on coming to the social.

## 9. AOCB

### **Additional Information:**

6. In Physics and Astronomy we've been hearing of a lack of adequate support from the university around study spaces for commuting students. We're looking into how to better support these students in our School and I was wondering if anyone else has had similar issues either currently or in the past and has any suggestions of initiatives to consider.