

Education Committee Meeting

Friday 15 November at 5pm in the Committee Room

Present:

- Ondrej Hajda, Education Officer (Convenor & Chair)
- Teddy Woodhouse, Director of Representation
- Tania Strützel, Postgraduate Committee Representative
- Peter DaBell, Science & Medicine Senate Rep
- Max Fabiszewski, Arts & Divinity Faculty President
- Mary Kempnich, Science & Medicine Faculty President
- Sophie Kelly, Arts & Divinity Senate Rep
- Ben Anderson, Member for Widening Access
- Iain Cupples, Education Advocate

Apologies:

- Scott Schorr, Postgraduate President

Minutes:

1. Library Opening Hours – JFAL, St Mary's, King James

Tania informed that she had met with the Library staff the previous week regarding provision of study space. She informed the committee that they had been looking into extending the opening hours for other Library facilities (St Mary's, King James, JF Allen) and also into the potential of card-swapping entry. It was suggested that a trial period was held for extended opening hours to see if there was demand.

Mary suggested focus on King James and St Mary's libraries because there was a student demand for it.

Ondrej suggested adding a question on St Mary's and JFAL opening hours to the Student Library Survey. Iain pointed out that the University would prefer hard data from the trial period.

Sophie suggested the committee aimed for having a trial period during Week 11 and throughout revision of Semester 1. Max added that this could help the problem in the Main Library with seat hogging and insufficient study space during revision & exam period.

Ondrej asked if the trial should focus on extending opening hours to weekend or opening longer on weekdays. There was a general agreement that for the purposes of revision it would be more beneficial if St Mary's Library opened on weekends. Teddy mentioned that extending opening hours to weekends might not be possible in such short time-period and recommended to have a trial period during busy Semester 2 time (Week 8/9).

Action points:

- **Ondrej to add a question about extended opening hours in other libraries to the Student Library Survey.**
- **Ondrej to ask the Library about the possibility of longer opening hours in St Mary's Library for this exam period.**

2. Student Library Survey

Ondrej asked the committee about the draft version of the Student Library Survey he had distributed around. The committee recommended rephrasing some questions (1, 3, 13, 14, 15, 21) and taking out some of them (4, 20). Ondrej welcomed the changes and agreed to incorporate into the survey.

Ondrej informed the committee that the survey would be launched on Tuesday 19 November and would be up for at least 2 weeks. Ondrej asked the committee to help with the promotion of the survey.

Action point: Ondrej to incorporate the discussed changes to the Student Library Survey.

3. Revision & Exam Study Spaces

Ondrej informed that the Library had sent him a live occupancy of the Main Library. (Link: <http://www-library.st-andrews.ac.uk/webservices/web/gate-data/display-widget>)

Ondrej hoped to make this information freely available to students and asked the committee what the best way was. Mary suggested including this link on iSaint under the Library tab.

Action point: Ondrej to ask the Library to include the live occupancy on their iSaint.

Teddy informed that he was planning to create a webpage with the list of all study spaces and their characteristics (e.g. laptop-friendly, quiet, computer lab, drinks & food nearby etc). Peter informed that he had compiled a list of study spaces available in North Haugh throughout the revision period that can be used for this webpage.

Action point: Teddy to work on the webpage with the list of study space available for revision & exam period.

4. #TakeCare Campaign

Ondrej informed that he was working with Avalon, the SRC Wellbeing Officer, and the Library on getting a MindApple tree in the Library to support the #TakeCare campaign.

Ondrej informed the committee about his plan to put up 'Good Luck' posters around exam venues to support people. Sophie mentioned that she could get a graphic designer involved in creating the posters.

Action point: Sophie to send Ondrej contact details for the graphic designer.

5. SRC Motion – Study Spaces

Teddy informed that he was planning to propose an SRC motion to oppose any decision to increase the number of students at the University without adequate provision of study space.

Sophie asked if they should include housing situation to the motion as well. Teddy replied that unlike housing, the provision of study spaces were solely a responsibility of the University, and should not be included in the motion.

Max added that the negative impact is not just on students but staff as well. Teddy agreed and added that both sides of the teaching experience are negatively affected.

Action point: Teddy to send a draft SRC motion to Sophie and Ondrej.

6. LTC Business

Teddy and Tania would attend LTC in the following week. Teddy informed that there were not any major relevant points to the Education Committee.

7. AOCB

Mary asked if there was any way of collecting student feedback on the Careers Centre because she felt that certain aspects of their service could be improved. Max backed this suggestion. Teddy informed that this point should be referred to the SRC Employability Committee for discussion that should meet at the end of Semester 1.

Action point: Teddy to refer a discussion on the Careers Centre feedback to the SRC Employability Committee.

Next Meeting:

- **Education Committee: Semester Two (dates TBC)**
- **Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC): Monday 2 December, 5pm, Committee Room**