

Education Committee Meeting

Friday 1 November at 5pm in the Committee Room

Present:

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

Apologies:

- Ben Anderson, Member for Widening Access
- Scott Schorr, Postgraduate President

Agenda:

1. Library Survey

Ondrej reminded the committee that they agreed on surveying the student body specifically on:

- opening hours
 - opening earlier on Saturdays and Sundays (9am)
 - closing later on Fridays and Saturday (2am)
 - 24-hour Library during busy periods
- higher fines for recalled books
- new silence system – Level 2 normal, Level 3 quiet, Level 4 silent
- short loan experience based on School

Ondrej added that there would be set of general questions to identify the year, Faculty and School of the respondents. Mary asked if they should include a question on the coffee issue to give students ownership of this.

Ondrej mentioned that he was looking to incorporating other issues that might be raised at the SLUG (Student Library User Group) Meeting on Friday 8 November. Ondrej asked Tania if they would like to put specific questions for PGs.

Ondrej informed the committee that he had not done the draft yet because of academic commitments and ask the committee for help with drafting the survey. Sophie, Tania and Teddy volunteered to help out.

Action: Sophie, Tania and Teddy to help Ondrej create a draft version of the Library survey by November 8 (SLUG).

2. SRC Motion to Support Student Engagement in Learning Through Access to Module Evaluation Feedback

Ondrej circulated a draft version of the motion and informed the committee about his

intention to put it forward at the following SRC Meeting on Tuesday 5 November.

Mary asked if he intended to give students access to all data from the module evaluation feedback. Ondrej replied in negative and added that he would like to see School Presidents and Class Reps given most details from the feedback.

Teddy suggested that Ondrej made the first two objectives the priority and the third a belief. Teddy recommended adding a line about SSCC (Staff-Student Consultative Committee) achieving the first point.

Action: Ondrej to edit the draft motion and submit it for the next SRC meeting.

3. Revision & Exam Study Spaces

Ondrej wanted to create a list of study spaces in town available during the Revision and Exam period and publish it on the Union website. This would feature the time availability, number of spaces, computers (y/n), laptop-friendly (y/n) etc.

Mary asked if it was possible to include current occupancy for the Library and the computer labs. Ondrej replied that Library had the occupancy numbers and he would work with them on publicising it on the Library website. Teddy informed that the number existed for computer labs as well.

Ondrej suggested each member would compile information about a different town area.

- North Haugh + JFAL – Peter
- Mary's Quad – Mary
- Gateway, Arts Building – Sophie
- Departmental Libraries, Sallies Quad – Max
- 24-hour computer labs – Ben

Teddy pointed out that it might be possible to acquire this information centrally (via the Library, IT Services and Estates) and that he would talk to the Proctor about it.

Action: Teddy to talk to the Proctor about providing extra study spaces during Revision and Exam period.

Action: Ondrej to get the Library to publicise their current occupancy on their website.

4. Inclusive Learning Policy

Teddy explained that he was working with Fay (SRC Member for Students with Disabilities) about mimicking the University of Edinburgh initiative on Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy. Teddy explained that the current policy worked only on ad hoc basis and was badly delivered. Teddy added that he hoped this new policy would become a standard practise and would include, among others, recording lectures, posting lecture slides in advance and digitising reading lists.

5. Honours Entry

Teddy informed that the University was in the process of discussing its policy on Honours entry to become fairer and avoid 'leap-frogging'.

Teddy explained that he was in favour of probationary entry – students who scored below 11 would be allowed to enter Honours and their status would be re-examined after their first semester in Honours. Teddy mentioned that School Presidents expressed their support

this idea and asked the committee if they were happy with it as well.

There were no objections from the committee.

6. TGAP

Teddy informed the committee that School Presidents produced a series of recommendations for improving the compulsory TGAP (Training in Good Academic Practise):

- Better tailored to specific Schools, or at least Faculties, and students with special needs.
- Clarification on cooperation between students because while some Schools and lecturers actively encouraged consultations with fellow students, TGAP prohibited it;
- More emphasis on referencing and teaching first years how to cite;
- Easier to access and better publicised;
- Harsher penalties to students who do not complete TGAP.

Tania asked to include a different scheme for PGs.

7. Partnership Statement

Teddy asked if the committee had any ideas for topics for the Partnership Statements and informed that the proposed topics so far were:

- Collaborative study and industrial placements
- Feedback on assessed work

Max suggested including extra tutoring of first years by Honours students.

8. AOCB

Tania informed that Martyrs' Kirk was currently limited only to PGRs, with no access to UGs or PGTs. Tania mentioned that the PG Committee wished to keep it that way because of the need for dedicated study spaces to PGRs. Tania added that they were about to meet with the Library to discuss the issue.

Teddy informed the committee that the Senate Business Committee was about to meet in the following week to set agenda for the next Academic Council on December 4. Teddy asked the Senate Reps if there were any specific points they would like to include. Sophie asked for more time to think about it.

Action: Sophie and Peter to email Teddy about points to be included on the next Academic Council agenda.