

Education Committee Meeting

Friday 31 January at 5pm in the Committee Room

Attending:

- Ondrej Hajda, Education Officer (Convenor & Chair)
- Teddy Woodhouse, Director of Representation
- Scott Schorr, Postgraduate President
- Max Fabiszewski, Arts & Divinity Faculty President
- Iain Cupples, Education Advocate

Apologies:

- Tania Strützel, Postgraduate Committee Representative
- Sophie Kelly, Arts & Divinity Senate Rep
- Mary Kempnich, Science & Medicine Faculty President

Not attending:

- Peter DaBell, Science & Medicine Senate Rep
- Ben Anderson, Member for Widening Access

Minutes:

1. Academic Council Report

Scott informed that removal of the 13.5 threshold for progression to PGT dissertation passed after a discussion in the AC.

Ondrej asked about progress in switching DoRep with Association President on the AC. Teddy answered that this issue was not agreed on with the University yet.

2. Wrapping Up

Ondrej reminded that the present committee has only a little over a month to finish all business for this year. Ondrej mentioned that the Education Committee need to work on the Study Spaces motion passed by the SRC in November (next agenda point). He added that he personally would focus on lobbying the Library for earlier opening hours on weekends using the results of the Student Library Survey and setting up a peer proofreading system for non-native speakers of English.

Ondrej highlighted that the committee never finalized the idea of organizing a Preservation Week with the Library. Teddy suggested this became a handover exercise to be worked on together with the new committee.

Action point: The current committee to use Preservation Week as a handover exercise for the new committee.

Ondrej informed that the Education Committee did not succeed in securing another charity day on which Library fines would go towards the Students' Association Bursary Fund. He informed he would keep looking for other possibilities with Ben.

Action point: Ondrej to work with Ben on looking into other options of obtaining sponsorship for

the Students' Association Bursary Fund.

Scott asked Teddy to include the PG Representative structure and a firmly established system in the handover package for the new DoRep. Teddy answered this would be done.

Scott suggested that the committee could focus on raising awareness about enterprising possibilities. Ondrej suggested this to be referred to Lonie, the SRC Employability Officer.

Action point: Ondrej to refer Scott's idea about raising awareness about enterprising opportunities to Lonie.

Teddy reminded the committee that they planned to collect feedback for TGAP and good academic practise. Iain added we should seek to establish a policy within the University to always enable a hearing if a warning about misconduct is issued.

Action point: Teddy to collect feedback on TGAP and good academic practise from the School Presidents and other student groups.

3. Study Spaces Motion

Max asked if there were any plans for expansion in University study space. Teddy replied that no major investment was planned. He informed that the University didn't consider Martyr's Kirk as a study space but rather as a research space. Teddy added that a fund to redevelop old classrooms was established with a possibility to open those for student use.

Ondrej asked the committee if they agree that they should campaign for study space open to all students, one that is not limited only to PGTs or Honours student. The committee supported this idea.

Ondrej suggested they should focus on working with the Library on extending Main Library opening hours over weekend and push for St Mary's Library to be open on weekends as well with the possibility of a trial for this in the second part of this semester after the Spring Break. Ondrej added that they could work with individual Schools to open their departmental libraries for wider use. Max volunteered to use the School of Classics as a pilot for this project.

Teddy informed that he was working with the Proctor on including provision of 'desk hours' as one of KPI (key performance indicators) and asked the committee to think how 'desk hours' could be defined. Max suggested this to be referred to School Presidents.

Action point: Teddy to ask School Presidents about possible definitions for 'desk hours'.

Teddy reminded that the Library was asking for input on seat hogging in the Library. Scott suggested we could run a campaign about invisible people in the Library. Ondrej asked if we should ask the Library to prepare a clear policy on seat hogging. It was recommended that this was further discussed with the School Presidents.

Action point: Teddy to ask School Presidents about their stance on seat hogging.

Ondrej reminded that the Student Library Survey brought up a lot of complaints about insufficient number of power sockets in the Library. Teddy suggested the committee considered working with IT Services on creating a laptop friendly space in the smaller computer lab in Butts Wynd.

4. **Education Committee Review**

The committee decided to propose a motion to amend the laws of the Students' Association on the issue of Education Committee and its remit.

It was recommended that Education Committee now encompasses all School Presidents and has a working business committee called the 'Education Exec Committee'.

2 Faculty Presidents should be directly elected by the students from their respective faculties and take over the responsibilities of the respective Senate Reps (technically conflating the role of Faculty Presidents and Senate Reps from next year).

The **Education Committee** should remain a subcommittee of the SRC and its membership should be:

- Director of Representation (Chair)
- Education Officer
- 2 Faculty Presidents
- All School Presidents

The Education Committee should meet biweekly (as is the current practise of the School Presidents' Meetings).

Education Executive Committee should be established as the business committee of the enlarged Education Committee and its membership should be:

- Director of Representation
- Education Officer (Chair)
- 2 Faculty Presidents
- 2 PG nominees (1 PGT, 1 PGR, including the PG Convenor)

The Education Advocate and the SRC Member for Widening Access should become members with a standing invitation to the Education Executive Committee.

The Education Executive Committee should meet regularly no more than 7 days before the Education Committee, or any time as deemed appropriate by the Chair.

There should be a parallel to the School President system on the postgraduate level called the '**Postgraduate Executive Reps**'. The PG Convenor (PG Vice-President for Academic Affairs) should be the Chair of this body. Director of Representation and Education Officer should also sit on this body.

Student Opinion on Academic Council (SOAC) Advisory Group should stay a subcommittee of the Education Committee until the Director of Representation becomes a member of the AC, when the Education Executive Committee will take its remit. The SOAC membership should be:

- Association President
- Director of Representation
- Education Officer (Chair)
- 2 Faculty Presidents
- 2 PG nominees (1 PGT, 1 PGR, including the PG Convenor)

SOAC should meet no more than 7 days before each AC meeting.

Action point: Teddy to propose an amendment of the SA laws to reflect the recommendation of

the Education Committee.

- 5. AOCB**
No AOCB.

Meeting ended at 6.40pm.

Next meeting: Friday 14 February (TBC)