



President's Report: School of Management

Term 1
2020-2021



President's Introduction

Statutory Responsibilities

SSLC
EduCom
SPF
EDI Meetings

Social

MS Teams Page
Thursday Night Events
Yoga
UG Mentor Scheme

Careers

PSS Fayre
Career Centre Presentation

COVID

Manifesto
Class Reps' extra roles

Term 2

Goals and Projects

President's Introduction

Last February, I ran uncontested for the role of Management School President. My manifesto had been largely developed on observations made through my years as a class representative for the School of Management (SoM). Mainly, I wanted to focus on creating a stronger School community by developing a 'management student' identity. To do so I wanted to host more social events to allow mixing between students (UG, PGT, PGR) and staff, and class bonding days/activities. Furthermore, I wanted to provide more mental health support by hosting events such as therapy dog days, meditation sessions, etc. Finally, my last objective was to improve the School's professional network. As one the University's largest schools and the School with the largest PGT cohort, the quality of our alumni network is quite minimal. Building a better alumni network went hand-in-hand with creating a stronger community for the SoM.

This was my advertised manifesto to the student body- (source: my Facebook page)

My main objectives are to:

- Provide more and better support toward mental health within the school
- Create a range of social events (speakers, staff-student, retreats, etc..) to help connect students
- Improve the school's professional network

In addition to my main goals, and in alignment with current pressing issues, I will focus on establishing environmental awareness as part of the School's culture and identity.

However, as the story goes, upon my election in March, COVID-19 struck the Western world. Classes moved online, the last SSLC was virtual, and the student body became scattered around the world. While my predecessor did a great job providing me written instructions and making herself available throughout the summer and term to help me navigate my first months as president, this online transition remained difficult. Moreover, most of my February manifesto became obsolete with the ban on large social gatherings. Many of the events I had wanted to host had to take on a virtual form while many more are completely impossible. The pandemic also brought many new situations which required urgent handling—dual-delivery, push back of in-person teaching, return to in-person teaching, etc. These issues took over most of my time throughout the first term. However, I was lucky to have a fantastic group of class representatives to collect and provide student feedback, and smooth communication between myself and my DoT (including all other faculty members as well).

You will find in the report below, all major events that happened in Term 1.

Jeanne M. Adam

Statutory Responsibilities

SSLC

13/10/2020: the first UG SSLC saw a never seen before fusion of faculty and student reps battling to understand COVID restrictions and dual-delivery difficulties. The meeting was highly effective in clearing up various short-term and long-term issues such as the S-Code policy, extensions, dual-delivery tutorials, Panopto accessibility, etc.

10/11/2020: the second UG SSLC saw a more familiar pattern of module specific feedback as dual-deliver was smoother. Overlapping agenda issues were:

1. some students still want to separate online and in-person tutorials
2. some students are frustrated with paying normal tuition with most if not all there teaching done online (this is a University wide issue obviously)

Overall, a sense of normality was sensed which brought some smiles.

EduCom

This platform enables me to learn more about other schools' development, events and handling of various situations as well as receiving advice (and continuing to receive) on situations within the SoM.

SPF

This is where continuing topics or large issues discussed at EduCom reach the Deans. While I am not the biggest advocate during these meetings, I do appreciate my peers who go above and beyond during them. This is why and how the new SP-Coding policy was established.

EDI meetings

The SoM's EDI committee has largely focused on helping students with disabilities receive proper support with the switch to online/dual-delivery teaching.

Social

MN Teams Page

Over the summer, Lucy Wishart (student life) and myself developed the project to create a Microsoft's Teams page to gather management students in one virtual place. The larger idea was to host our online social and careers events on that platform. Furthermore, it was to be used as an 'information bank', providing students with information (e.g. Monday Memo content), and a general place for student communication between themselves, their reps, and myself. The page was heavily marketed in

the first month of term 1 and was easy to access due to its public setting (restricted to @st-andrews.ac.uk users).

However, while we did gather a solid number of students on the page (475 members), it never became an active hub. Due to its low traffic and engagement levels, I shifted back to relying largely on my Monday Memos for the remainder of the semester in regards to student communication.

Thursday Night

One of the objectives with the Team's page was to host a weekly event. A variety of events were hosted the first month of class (from Freshers Week to Week 3). Events were two movie nights (using the Netflix Party extension), the Professional Skills Societies Fayre (PSS), and an introduction to the Career Centre and its services.

Thursday night events were discontinued due to their extremely low attendance—both movie nights brought in zero viewers—and the growing academic demand which I and the class reps were under.

Yoga

By the end of the term, students were stressed due to the pressure of exams slowly creeping. At this point, we decided to host a series of events to help students. During revision week, we hosted 2 yoga classes and one guided meditation class via our Teams page. These events were sponsored by the SoM's EDI committee. While students had requested for these sorts of events, they wanted/would have preferred to have them in person, thus attendance rates remain low (averaging 7 students).

UG Mentoring Scheme

At the beginning of Term 1, year 2,3 and 4 UG students were able to sign up to mentor 1-year students. We had 9 mentors with 2 mentees each! Each mentor was asked to reach out to their mentees by the end of week 1 to present themselves. The following events depended on the relationship each mentor and mentee developed—whether it became a friendship or if it remained more academically focused.

Careers

Professional Skills Societies Fayre

This event had been talked about since the previous year. It was felt that management students were not fully aware of the various student societies which they could join to earn 'professional' skills; societies such as: Management Soc, Banking & Finance Soc, GIG, Playfair, SACS, etc. The original idea was to host the event within Gateway during Week 1 (once advising and matriculation were done). However, due to COVID, the societies were invited to present themselves via one big collective call on our Teams page. A total of 10 students watched the event live and a further 8 watched its recording.

This was a particularly fun event to organize and host for myself and the societies presenting. I do hope it continues and that, in the future, it can be done in-person as I am sure it will attract plenty more students. (hosted 16/9)

Career Centre Introduction

This event hosted 24/9 in the Teams' page, consisted of Bonnie Hackings introducing the Career Centre and its various services offered to students. The event lasted a bit over 25 minutes and attracted 6 students while 'live' and a further 3 views once its recording was published in the Teams page.

COVID

Manifesto

As previously noted upon in my introduction, the global pandemic has limited (if not to say eliminated) the vast majority of my manifesto. I have tried and continue to try my best under this uncertain and challenging time.

Class Reps' Extra Roles

All extra roles were quickly filled up (social, careers, library, PG secretary, disabilities, transcriber). I took the liberty to create a group of social reps rather than relying on one student to handle this purpose. This model has proven very effective with the organization of the Yoga classes at the end of term as it allowed to divide the task thus reducing time and stress—which is really needed and appreciated under COVID.

This group model was so effective, that I have taken the decision to extend it to careers for Term 2. I am hoping that this will enable more career events to be held throughout the term.

Term 2

Instagram

Currently, Lucy, myself and the social reps are working towards creating and developing an Instagram account for management student management students. This project has 3 big challenges. The first is that we cannot be affiliated to the SoM. The second consists about creating content which appeals to current management students as well as prospective students and alumni. The final challenge is to create a 'model' which can be passed on to future class reps so that the Instagram can remain 'alive'.

Careers Workshops

Since creating the new group of careers reps, we are developing the idea of hosting 'workshops'. These workshops would consist of management alumni who are working in HR/recruiting or/and recent grads who have just gone through the recruitment process. Workshops would have themes such as CV writing, case study theory/practice, behavioural interview theory/practice, etc. We would use this opportunity to reach out to our alumni via LinkedIn and Saint Connect which would also allow for our alumni community to become more active!

Social Events with Econ

This is a burgeoning idea with the Econ President, but we are hoping to host a variety of social virtual events which would combine both schools. Term 2 is usually the time where we would be planning the Bull and Bear Ball alongside the Econ Society and the Management Society, so while no ball is most likely this year, if we could maintain that comradery between our Schools and continue bringing (even if virtual) fun and entertainment to our students.