

R. 18-2 Motion to Introduce an SRC Member for Student Health

Owner: Nick Farrer

In Effect From: March 2019

Review Date: 20 November, 2018

Councils Notes:

1. Prior to the March 2017 Student's Association elections, the SRC Wellbeing Officer role was abolished. The remit of chairing the Wellbeing committee passed to the newly created Director of Wellbeing.
2. In February 2017 a Motion by the Director of Representation Jack Carr to introduce an SRC Member for Mental Health Awareness failed.
3. The Wellbeing Committee's remit is to run campaigns relating to physical fitness, personal safety, mental health, and sexual health. In addition to representatives for those areas they typically have a secretary, a treasurer, a design officer, and a publicity/outreach officer.
4. The minutes for the February 2017 Joint Councils meeting read: "Several members indicated that they would like a wellbeing representative to sit on councils, particularly given the removal of the Wellbeing and Equal Opportunities Officer. [Director of Representation] Jack Carr proposed to change the motion to SRC nominee for Wellbeing Committee, and [Association President] Charlotte Andrew objected to this on the grounds that this would be a new motion rather than a minor amendment. Lewis Wood as Acting Chair agreed and the proposed alteration was not accepted."
5. Whereas there used to be two elected positions that would give individuals a mandate to pursue wellbeing projects (DoRep and SRC Wellbeing Officer), there is now only one (DoWell).
6. The roles of Peer Support coordinator, Got Consent coordinator, and Student Services intern are interviewed rather than elected. Student Services sits on those interview panels.
7. All of the internal members of the Wellbeing committee are interviewed rather than elected.
8. Although Class Reps in some Schools are able to volunteer to cover a wellbeing remit, there are no longer directly elected Wellbeing Class Reps in Schools.
9. Whilst St Andrews Nightline does elect leadership positions, they are also an independent body and are not an officially affiliated society. They are also have to be highly selective about volunteering and the majority of volunteers cannot disclose their experience.
10. The minutes for the February 2017 JC meeting noted: "It was agreed that the Wellbeing Committee should nominate a member to attend the 2017/2018 SRC meetings in the interim."

11. No internal member of the Wellbeing Committee was nominated to attend the 2017/18 SRC meetings in that interim.
12. The minutes for the February 2017 meeting noted: “the lack of obvious steps to Director of Wellbeing the removal of both Wellbeing and Equal Opportunities Officer had resulted in.”
13. Both elected Directors of Wellbeing were Nightline Public Faces, Peer Support Coordinators, and Student Services Interns. The current Director of Wellbeing was able to develop in elected roles which have since been abolished (SRC Wellbeing Officer, Wellbeing Class Rep).

Councils Believes:

1. We should not prioritise mental health over physical fitness, personal safety, or sexual health as all are important. Students should be able to democratically choose any mandate in any one or combination of those categories.
2. We should allow students more opportunities to vote on Wellbeing initiatives and positions.
3. We should have an elected wellbeing role which could develop experience for the Director of Wellbeing position.
4. After two elections for Director of Wellbeing, the need for alternate pathways has become more apparent. It is too easy for one person to hold the majority of wellbeing development opportunities.

Councils Resolves:

1. To create an SRC Member for Student Health
2. The position should be elected for the first time in March 2019.
3. To replace the existing Association laws in Chapter 7.5 regarding the Wellbeing Committee with Appendix B.
4. To advertise the position using the role description proposed in Appendix C.

Proposed by:

Nicholas Farrer - Director of Wellbeing

Seconded by:

Wellbeing Subcommittee - Unanimously

Paloma Paige - Association President

Adam Powrie - Director of Events and Services

Jamie Minns - Director of Student Development and Activities

Emily Muller - SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

Courtney Aitken - Postgraduate Development Officer

Ciara McCumiskey - SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation

Appendix A. Extract from the Laws of the Association

Chapter Three: The Students' Representative Council

1.Composition of the Students' Representative Council (SRC)

2.The membership of the SRC shall be:

2.1.Elected Officers:

2.1.1.Association President

2.1.2.Association Director of Events and Services

2.1.3.Association Director of Student Development and Activities

2.1.4.Association Director of Education

2.1.5.Association Director of Wellbeing

2.1.6.Association Chair

2.1.7.Association Alumni Officer

2.1.8.Association Community Relations Officer

2.1.9.Association Environment Officer

2.1.10.Association LGBT+ Officer

2.1.11.President of the Athletic Union

2.1.12.SRC Accommodation Officer

2.1.13.~~SRC Wellbeing Officer~~ SRC Member for Student Health

2.1.14.SRC Member for First Years

2.1.15.SRC Member for Gender Equality

2.1.16.SRC Member for Age Equality

2.1.17.SRC Member for Racial Equality

2.1.18.SRC Member for Students with Disabilities

2.1.19.SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation

2.1.20.SRC Member without Portfolio

2.1.21.Postgraduate Convenor

2.1.22.Arts/Divinity Faculty President

2.1.23.Science/Medicine Faculty President

Appendix B: Extract from the Laws of the Association

7.5. Wellbeing Committee

7.5.1. Membership

7.5.1.1. **The SRC Member for Student Health will sit on this committee as a regular member.** The Director of Wellbeing shall revise and establish a membership structure for **the rest of** the committee annually, or whenever it proves necessary.

7.5.2. Remit

7.5.2.1. The SRC Wellbeing Committee shall:

7.5.2.2. Formulate and ensure the execution of SRC policy on student wellbeing;

7.5.2.3. Promote positive physical and mental health among students, encourage positive behaviour relating to sexual health and personal safety;

7.5.2.4. Ensure that matters relating to student wellbeing are brought to the attention of the SRC.

7.5.3. Meetings

7.5.3.1. The SRC Wellbeing Committee shall meet every fortnight during term time and other times when necessary.

Appendix C: Proposed Role Description for the Elections Portal:

SRC Member for **Student Health**

April- March, Part time, Voluntary

Aim

The role is to sit on the Wellbeing committee, to represent them on SRC, and to work with them on projects and campaigns in the areas of sexual health, mental health, physical fitness, and personal safety.

Key Responsibilities

What you will be doing:

- Serve on the Student Representative Council
- Ensure Association policy considers the impact it will have on health, safety, and fitness.
- Propose projects to the Wellbeing committee and work on them with their help.
- Serve on the Wellbeing Committee, assist other committee members in their work, and promote their work to the student body

How you will be doing it:

- The role is flexible, and any SRC Member for **Student Health** can pursue projects with the Wellbeing Committee in any one or combination of the following: mental health, sexual health, physical health and fitness, and personal safety.
- The office holder will be offered an ordinary position in the committee and the extra responsibilities and work that entails (e.g., Secretary, Treasurer, Mental Health Rep, Sexual Health Rep, Personal Safety Rep, Physical Health and Fitness Rep) chosen by the Director of Wellbeing. They can choose to decline that offer and serve as a Member without portfolio.
- Develop working relationships with other members of the Wellbeing Committee, the Director of Wellbeing, and where appropriate with Student Services, NHS Fife, the Athletic Union, and Police Scotland.
- Liaise with and be line-managed by the Director of Wellbeing.

Useful skills or characteristics

- Commitment
- Ability to work in a team
- Enthusiasm
- Passion for wellbeing issues

Skills you can expect to learn/ develop

- Greater team working skills

- Organization
- Campaign planning
- Event management

Expected Time Commitment

6- 10 hours per week

Further Questions

Questions should be directed to the Wellbeing Committee (wellbeing@st-andrews.ac.uk) who can talk about the committee as a whole, as well as individual projects and remits of officers/ representatives.