

R21-02 Motion to support the MLitt Gender Studies cohort

Owner: Joe Horsnell, SRC Arts & Divinity Faculty President; SRC Senior Officer

In effect: Immediately

Review date: n/a

Notes

1. There are current issues with staffing and leadership regarding the MLitt Gender Studies programme and the wider Institute for Gender Studies at St Andrews.
2. Over 2000 people have signed an open letter in support of Dr Allison Kerr and raising concerns about the future of the MLitt Gender Studies programme.
3. The students on the programme have made appeals to the University on this issue already and are in touch with the Director of Education, Arts & Divinity Faculty President, Philosophy School President and Graduate School President.
4. Due to the nature of staffing contracts and an ongoing complaint, the University has been unable to provide full information to students and to the Students' Association on the situation.

Believes

1. The Institute for Gender Studies is an incredibly important entity and teaches an incredibly valuable academic discipline.
2. Students on the MLitt Gender Studies course have been extremely negatively affected by the situation regarding their programme and this is unacceptable.
3. The reputation of the University of St Andrews could be damaged by the students on this programme not being properly supported and continued staffing problems with the Institute.

Resolves

1. To mandate the Director of Education, Arts & Divinity Faculty President, School President of Philosophy, School President of the Graduate School and the relevant class representative to ensure the students in the MLitt Gender Studies cohort are fully supported and are able to raise concerns with staff.
2. To mandate the Director of Education to engage with the Graduate School regarding its internal structures and with University senior staff regarding fixed-term contract employment practices in general and the way they impact on students.
3. To endorse the long-term longevity of the Institute for Gender Studies, especially for students who opt to take a leave of absence following these staffing issues to continue with their programme upon their return.

Proposed:

Joe Horsnell, SRC Arts & Divinity Faculty President; SRC Senior Officer

Amy Gallacher, Director of Education

Seconded:

Education Committee unanimously supported this motion on 18.02.2021

Dan Marshall, Association President

Abi Whitefield, PG Academic Convener

Chloe Fielding, SRC Science & Medicine Faculty President