



Papers for SRC Meeting

11th October 2022 – Large Rehearsal Room – 18:00

Contents of Papers:

1. [Reports from Councillors](#)
2. [R-22-21 Motion for the University-funded Implementation of Sanitary Product Provisions in the Men's, Gender-Neutral and Accessible Students' Association Bathrooms](#)
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SRC REPORTS

Athletic Union President

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

Since the last meeting, consultations regarding the facility developments have continued. I have also managed to find time to pick up on the final committee training sessions for Wellbeing Officers. With lots of club activity now in full swing and the start of BUCS matches and competitions I have been fielding lots of questions and supporting the clubs. There have been quite a number of financial questions following the full implementation of the new structure and vendor system, but these have been fairly quickly ironed out.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

Given the time in the semester and the ongoing track consultations, there has not been a huge amount of progress in regard to my manifesto. Conversations regarding membership financing options have been started, but this is a long term process. I have also been looking into the support we provide for Health and Safety Officers and the existing policies and procedures that are in place at Saints Sport. Over the next few months, there will hopefully be a clearer structure and process for this and a uniform approach for all clubs - whether they train in St Andrews or further afield.

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

By the next report I hope to have found more time to address some of my manifesto concerns and to have worked with the Saints Sport Staff to put together the proposal for facility developments on the track and rubbercrumb pitch.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Alumni Officer – Aditya Goel

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

- Selected alumni subcommittee members.
- Held an introductory meeting to assign roles to each member for the year.
- Discussed ideas of collecting the list of alumni and ways of reaching out to the prospective ones for events.
- Created sub-committee logo
- Started new social media pages

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

- Help students to get in touch with alumni to network through Coffee connect, Saint connect and Saint talks
- Help other committee to reach out to alumni to host events
- Helping the Alumni Relations Office of the university to engage with more students by publicising Saint connect, Saint talks and Coffee connect through social media.

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

- Creating an elaborate database of alumni
- Collaborating with other committees to host events
- Host an event with an alumni in November

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Arts and Divinity Faculty President – Francesca Jane Lavelle

No report submitted

SRC BAME Officer – Yuyu Jasmin Zheng

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

1. Multicultural Week: I have worked on organising events for multicultural week, including a career focused panel, an event for introducing report + support scheme to BAME student, Musuem Late in collaboration with the Wardlaw museum etc.
2. Black History Month: my subcommittee and I worked closely with ACS in various events, setting up a bookshelf at the main library on BHM
3. REC working group: had a meeting with other members from the student life cycle working group to discuss about a survey on demographics
4. Meeting with Student Services on making a info handbook for BAME students and set up a feedback form

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

1. Cultural societies collaboration: reached out to different cultural societies to discuss the potential of collaboration and support
2. Handbook on hate crime: in the progress of making the wellbeing part of BAME student handbook

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

1. Finish the BAME Student Handbook
2. Work on the Student Art Profiling Workshop with the Wardlaw Musuem

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Charities Officer – Alice Chapman

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

The committee is now full! All positions have been filled and everyone has attended the training days required. Race2 destination has been announced, CATWALK have had their model casting and are releasing their launch tickets in the next few days. RAG are launching Dare2Donate next week and Challengers had their first info evening for the Dana to Petra trek (we already have 11 sign ups!) Events have 5 great events planned for this semester, and we have our first general committee social coming up.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

We have been focusing on publicising events well in advance, this progress has shown in the unexpectedly high numbers of attendance we saw at the Race2 and Challengers info evenings.

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

I hope to have at least 40 Race2 sign ups, the Race2 RA in and all Events planned for the semester confirmed.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

RAG Dare2Donate will be launched soon and it would be great to get some members involved. For details, check out the RAG socials pages.

SRC Community Relations Officer – Mashaim Bukhari

No report submitted.

SRC Disability Officer – Jane Yarnell

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

Planned and prepped Disability pride week
Started running physical disability and chronic illness support groups
Re-upped the neurodivergent study group
began planning + prepping Careers week material
Ran many delightful events

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

Apologies for copy-paste, but all of these were manifesto points:
Started running physical disability and chronic illness support groups
Re-upped the neurodivergent study group

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

Run Disability Pride Week, get ND study group running smoothly (right now it's a little organizationally intense in ways I think we can fix!).

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

We have our Disability Pride Week next week! We have events running all week that are up on our social media.

SRC Employability Officer – Mathis Bourassa

No report submitted.

SRC Environment Officer – Marcelina Lekawska

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

Further meetings to update the sustainability strategy for the Union, including meetings with Rectors staff and Estates team to learn about our carbon emissions footprint. I have also helped write a student manifesto calling for more climate action across the university in partnership with the ESB. A Doughnut Economic Action Lab Q&A event has also been set up for later this month - during which students can learn about circular economy concepts from an expert. Two subcommittee members also had a meeting with the careers centre to see if a green careers event can be formed for green week during semester 2.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

A survey about sustainability education in the curriculum has been released by the Education Officer. The Wellbeing Officer has organised an eco-anxiety cafe to continue providing spaces for students to talk about the feelings they have associated to the climate crisis.

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

I hope to work more with the accommodation officer to further activities including

environmentalism within Halls - as the Hall Environmental Reps have now been elected.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Gender Equality Officer – Rach Nevinova

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

- Set up a Gender Equality Officer email which increases ease of communication with students and organisations and which is to be handed over with the position every year
- Corresponded with prospective students to address their concerns regarding gender identity support at the University
- Met with the Saints LGBT Wellbeing officer and discussed widening support for intersex students at university, gathering resources and setting up a meeting group
- Met with Feminist Society members to discuss the issues of spiking on nights out and streamlining resources as well as becoming involved with the organisation initiatives
- Discussed infographics distribution on night out safety and important report and support details
- Drafted a motion to provide menstrual care supplies to all students who need them
- Communicated with a theatre company which reached out regarding promoting a feminist play regarding gender equality and advised them on correcting their promo materials, due to problematic wording

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

- Addressing lack of menstrual product provisions in bathrooms
- Began the process of streamlining resources regarding report and support
- Working with Saints LGBT to extend support for gender identities
- Working on advertising and informing about the full breadth of reporting spiking incidents
- Collaborating with gender equality-oriented societies on initiatives

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

- Roll out infographics regarding spiking
- Roll out, advertise and distribute resources for intersex students
- Collaborate with Sexpression and FemSoc on informational campaigns and trainings
- Collaborate with Saints LGBT regarding support for trans and nonbinary students
- Outline the Gender Equality budget
- Begin working with Student Services on extending and streamlining support for trans and nonbinary students

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC International Students' Officer – Raghav Kediya

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

- Helped in organising and conducting events during Multicultural week. This includes the Internship panel which helped students understand how to go about applications and what to expect from internships.
- Coordinated with the Afro-Caribbean society on organising the panel discussion event during Black History Month. Helped with accommodation and advertisement.
- Attended BAME Student Network meeting to understand their operations and assist them where necessary.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

- The aforementioned activities relate to the co-operation part of my manifesto. This is because it allowed for different societies and communities of people to collaborate with one another and learn from each others' experiences.

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

- Set up social media page for the account.
- Receive responses from all cultural societies, so that I can create a teams forum.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC LGBT+ Officer – Sofia Johnson

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

Had an EGM for Postgrad and First Year Officers. Line managed committee members while they look for subcommittees for Glitterball, Queerfest, Transfest and Identity Meetup Reps. Beginning discussions of the organisation of Pride.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

Plan on meeting with the Principal to discuss the university's involvement with St. Andrews Pride and if they can assist with organising it.

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

Concrete plans about Pride. All subcommittees under Saints LGBT+ to be filled and ready to plan their events.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

If any other SRC Officers would like to get involved with Pride please let me know!

SRC Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer – Molly Paule Wilson

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

Worked with the university on delivering the second commuter's room in the North Haugh
Held a successful family-find event open to all in the union
Worked with the spaces and places group on potential student access to the Guardbridge gym
Worked with previous students to facilitate handover of Townsend society's responsibilities
Started creating an interactive map to highlight areas of importance to Lifers(commuter rooms, common rooms, free parking, accessible bathrooms)

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

Held events to combat social isolation reported by lifers
Started work on map to make information on St Andrews easier and more accessible to Lifers
Expanded commuter room spaces with the university onto the North Haugh

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

Resolved the Townsend situation
Completed the map
Held more events

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Postgraduate Academic Convenor – Sandro Eich

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

This is my first report in this role. We are currently prioritising PG Rep elections, still working on getting students involved in representative roles across different levels. There are Officer roles, such as the PGR President role and the PG Activities Officer that we would hope to recruit as part of our rolling nominations initiative. I have also met with the Provost two weeks ago to discuss the precarious employment situation of GTAs in regards to the School's commitment to PGR students. Specifically, we have discussed how to implement earlier commitment times for School's so GTAs are not in a position of having to worry about their employment until their contract is finally signed.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

We hope to fill many of the still vacant PG representative positions and get PG reps trained and up-to-speed with how they can best pursue their work. This is particularly important for PGT students whose time at the university and as a rep is quite limited. Additionally, we are reviewing representation roles that are uncontested and will be in touch with the Schools to discuss co-optioning and/or a reform of School representation roles.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Rector's Assessor – Stella Maris

SRC Science and Medicine Faculty President – Martyna Kemeklyte

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

Participated in the LTC committee meeting on the 28th of September
Participate in the Academic Senate meeting on the 21st of September
Attended and chaired our weekly EduCom meetings
Organised 3 pre-EduCom meetings with the Science and Medicine school presidents
Participated in class rep training for the Science and Medicine Schools, Arts and Divinity Schools, as well as EDI rep training, Community and Events rep training
Created visuals for the Class Rep Handbook
Attended SRC
Attended weekly meetings with EduExec
Helped with increasing voter engagement for Class Rep election by volunteering at some of the Schools stalls

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

Continued work on the STEM LGBT week
Layed foundations for facilitating communications between the SPs

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

Finalise the events and speakers for the LBGT Stem Week

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

Secretary to the SRC – Lewis O'Neill

No report submitted.

SRC Societies Officer – Laura Connies-Laing

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

Created and passed new motion on Societies Committee business outside term time.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

We are looking at potentially collaborating with the BAME subcommittee to host a multicultural society event.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Student Health Officer – Sana Aboobacker

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

The Wellbeing Subcommittee successfully conducted SHAG (Sexual Awareness and Guidance) Week. A week-long of back-to-back events and awareness campaigns such as sex work-related information was conducted. Safeword bop was a humungous success with more than 500 people purchasing tickets. Among other events, we had a doctor from Sexual Health Fife come over to conduct a talk about relevant info for students. We are also holding a collab event with yogi soc for mental health awareness day on 10th October.

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

The Subcom, including our men's rep and saint sports intern, have been planning events and campaigns during the month.

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

I am planning to work with the committee's personal safety rep and the GotLimits coordinator to organise parent packs for Raisin week. I am also aiming to have achieved a lot finalised for the Movember campaign.

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

SRC Widening Access and Participation Officer – Ramsay Bader

What have you done since the last meeting/report?

- Coordinated with previous Widening Access and Participation Officers to push forward key initiatives from previous years and to consolidate projects
- Working on updating Union page and creating a manifesto available online
- Scheduled meeting with the Equality Committee, Museums Student Advisory Panel, and with the Ambassadors to discuss initiatives for this year

What progress has been made on your manifesto?

What do you hope to achieve by your next report?

I hope to fully integrate with the other Widening Access and Participation wings within the

university and to set out clear goals for the year.
I hope to both survey, and then work more closely regarding the housing crisis and how hybrid learning is affecting WP students

Any events or opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

Motions

R-22-21 Motion for the University-funded Implementation of Sanitary Product Provisions in the Men's, Gender-Neutral and Accessible Students' Association Bathrooms

Proposer: Rachel Nevinova – Gender Equality Officer

It is noted that:

1. The Scottish Government places a duty on education authorities to provide menstrual products to students through the Period Products in Schools (Scotland) Regulations which have since been extended through the Period Products (Free Provision) Act
2. The Union Sexual Health Webpage mentions locations in which students may access free period products, which includes the Students' Association bathrooms
3. The women's bathrooms are provided with both a paid contraception dispenser and a free-of-charge menstrual product dispenser
4. This dispenser is funded by the University
5. Non-women and people with disabilities experience periods and thus require sanitary products
6. The men's, accessible and gender-neutral bathrooms do not have any sanitary product dispensers and are only equipped with a paid contraception dispenser

It is believed that:

1. Students of all genders and disability status should have access to free menstrual care, as are women, without being expected to venture into the women's bathrooms to acquire them
2. Only providing this dispenser in the women's bathroom reflects unfavourably on the Union in regard to recognizing and supporting trans identities and disabled students, especially after last year's widespread conversations about supporting trans students
3. As the cost-of-living crisis worsens throughout the semester, providing free menstrual products to a larger portion of the student body could help alleviate some financial concerns, especially for students who have to support themselves or have to divert their funds towards healthcare
4. This SRC will show understanding towards the deeper implications of this lack of provision and how remedying it can demonstrate that the SRC supports all gender identities within the student body

This SRC Resolves:

1. To lobby senior management to invest in period product provisions
2. To distribute these provisions in all bathrooms in the Students' Association building, including men's, gender-neutral and accessible bathrooms
3. To work with the University to expand this initiative to more University properties currently missing these provisions, to ensure safe access to period care for everyone

Seconded by:

Sofia Johnson – LGBT+ Officer

Jane Yarnell – Disability Officer

Sana Aboobacker – Student Health Officer

R-22-22 Motion to Endorse the ‘Open Letter to the University of St Andrews – a student call for Resource and Action Towards our Sustainability Goals’

Owner: Marcelina Lekawska – Environment Officer

In Effect From: Immediately

Review Date: N/A

It is noted that:

1. The University of St Andrews created the Environmental Sustainability Board as a result of the Line in the Sand protest in 2019.
2. The University has endorsed an Environmental Sustainability Strategy with the aim of becoming Carbon Net Zero by 2035.
3. The University is also aiming at becoming sustainability positive and climate adaptive.
4. The University is putting Sustainability as a core theme under the new University Strategy, which is currently in consultation
5. This Open Letter Calling for Sustainability action has been open since noon on Tuesday the 4th of October and as of 5pm on Friday the 7th of October has acquired 178 signatures, 83.7% of these being students. (Refer to Appendix B for evidence).

It is believed that:

1. Despite setting ambitious goals, the University of St Andrews has yet to provide details of how these will be achieved, specifically lacking a step-by-step implementation plan for achieving net-zero by 2035 objectives.
2. The University has not dedicated the adequate resources to implement policies that will allow it to achieve the goals it has set, specifically dedicating enough full-time staff members to work on sustainability. Currently the university is heavily relying on staff and student volunteers to undertake sustainability work.
3. As the University of St Andrews has made many sustainability commitments, it must now dedicate the appropriate resources for those commitments to be met.
4. As a world leading university, St Andrews must set the tone and take the lead on tackling the current environmental crisis.
5. This SRC is committed to amplifying student beliefs and concerns so that the University takes them into account.

It is resolved to:

1. Endorse and encourage students to sign the open letter written by student environmental leaders – the letter is attached to this motion. This is an open letter to Sally Mapstone and Derek Watson within the Principal’s Office, calling for the dedication of more University resources towards sustainability action (Appendix A).

Proposer:

Marcelina Lekawska, Environment Officer

Seconders:

Juan Pablo Rodriguez – Association President

Sam Gorman – Director of Student Development & Activities

Emma Craig – Director of Wellbeing & Equality

Aditya Goel – Alumni Officer

Appendix A - Open Letter to the University of St Andrews, a student call for resource and action towards our sustainability goals:

The open letter can be accessed using this [link](#) and is transcribed below.

We, students involved with sustainability at the University of St Andrews, have written this letter to demand more action on sustainability from the University. We recognise that the University has made significant progress towards sustainability, but without further resource, in terms of both staffing and funding, it is difficult to progress any further or at the rate required. We are inviting you (students, staff, alumni, and community members) to add your signature to our letter before we send it to Professor Dame Sally Mapstone and Derek Watson FCCA at the end of October 2022. Please read the letter and add your signature below. We would be grateful if you could share this widely.

Dear Professor Dame Sally Mapstone and Derek Watson FCCA,

The [Line in the Sand](#) event in 2019 demanded climate action from the University of St Andrews. Student, staff and community voices were listened to, and action was taken by the University with the formation of the Environmental Sustainability Board (ESB) in 2020. Following the ESB's creation, the University published its ambitious [Environmental Sustainability Strategy 'Net Zero by 2035'](#), and in 2021-22, the [Annual Sustainability Report](#) set out three missions to become Sustainability Positive, Carbon Net Zero and Climate Adaptive.

Despite such ambitious goals, the University of St Andrews has yet to provide details of how these will be achieved, and has not published deadlines for its aims. The University has also not supported enough dedicated full-time staff to work on implementing the Strategy, or pledged the necessary resources to do so. Other Universities have shown much more dedication to meeting their sustainability aims, such as [Oxford University pledging £200 million](#) over the next 15 years to reduce their environmental footprint. So far, much of the efforts towards the Strategy have been undertaken by already overworked staff and student volunteers. Initiatives led by student volunteers have included the proposal of the St Andrews Forest, the development of Training in Environmental Sustainability Action (TESA), the switch to Ecosia as our primary search engine, the formation of the University of St Andrews Sustainability social media pages (with over 4700 followers) and the introduction of an Eco-Anxiety Champion to the University's Mental Health Taskforce.

In this time of climate crisis, mass extinction and environmental injustice, there is an urgent need for global leadership. As future leaders, students of the University of St Andrews will hold positions of responsibility in a world shaped by present and emerging challenges. We believe it is essential that this University takes these challenges seriously now and sets an example for all its students – past, present and future. If an institution such as the University of St Andrews, a top UK University with sustainability as a Core Pillar of its [Strategic Plan \(2022-2027\)](#) does not lead in taking the action needed to address these challenges, then who will?

The time has come for the University of St Andrews to put action behind their words and show true dedication towards the ambitious goals set out in the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.

We, students at the University of St Andrews, therefore demand:

1. Publication of a step-by-step implementation plan, with targets and dates, to deliver the Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
2. Further dedicated full-time staff focused on implementing the Environmental Sustainability Strategy as well as supporting the work of the ESB, both centrally and within departments, instead of relying on overworked staff and volunteers.
3. Devoted long-term funds and internal resources to implement the Strategy and for wider sustainability work at the University, including the work of Transition University of St Andrews.
4. Appointed staff focused on communication of sustainability and engaging our communities effectively with sustainable behaviour change.
5. Continued commitment to biodiversity work, including permanent staffing, a long-term action plan with a clear implementation framework for biodiversity positive goals, and a shift towards sustainable land management practices of all University grounds.

We are happy to meet and discuss the above and other sustainability concerns expressed by students.

Yours sincerely,
Abi Whitefield (*ESB Member, Former Chair of Student & Community Working Group and SGSD ESPWG Member*)
Heather Fortune (*ESB Member and Chair of Student & Community Working Group*)
Marcelina Lekawska (*ESB Member, Environment Officer*)
Sofie Brøgger (*ESB Member and Eco Entrepreneur*)
Eva Neill (*SGSD SET Chair*)
Stella Maris (*Rector's Assessor*)
Izzie Merrie (*Student Member of Transition University of St Andrews Steering Committee*)
Gabriel Bonnamy (*ESB Member*)
Léa Weimann (*Alumnus – Former Environment Officer, Former ESB Member and S&C Chair, Former Line in the Sand Coordinator*)
Deanna Coleman (*Alumnus - Former ESB Member*)

Appendix B – Evidence of Open Letter Signatures as of 5pm on Friday the 7th of October:

This chart is provided by Abi Whitefield, the creator and owner of the Open Letter to the University of St Andrews online form.

Which of these options best describes you?

178 responses

