

Education Committee Meeting

1st February 2024 | 18:00-18:50 | Small Rehearsal Room

Meeting called by
 Type of meeting
 Chair
 Note taker(s)

Education Executive Committee
 Education Committee Meeting
 Faculty Presidents
 Emily Bannister

Attendees: Emily, Chase, Cam, Hitanshi, Harry, Sadie, Rebekah, Rohin, Federica, Shreya, Sydney, Aarushi, Sairaa, Serena, Kiera, Daria, Ruchi, David, Michael, Syna, James, Krish, Tom, Gemma, Marianna, Anastasia, Harriet, Anna
 Online: Chloe, Calum
 Apologies: Olivia
 Absences: Christy, Harry
 Guests:

Agenda Item

| Topic | Presenter | Time Allotted |
|---|-------------|---------------|
| Approval of the Minutes Update on Union work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SRC Meeting- hall committees changing to be less independent which will help with support and financial management. - Student Partnership Agreement. - Stance on sex work. - Palestine motion discussed but not voted on, will be voted for on Tuesday 6th February. Open to students and the general public. - Green Week this week. | Arts/Div FP | 5 Minutes |
| <u>First Agenda Item: Study spaces.</u> General thoughts on common study space availability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lack of space already which will only grow throughout semester. Main library <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Completely full during exam periods, must get there at 8am to get a seat BUT school specific libraries are never full. o Maybe top floor of the Main Library or just desktops could be bookable (like COVID times). o Needs to be more desktops in library. Not enough computers in science study spaces. o Chase: library's official comment was to trial some bookable group spaces. | Arts/Div FP | 15 minutes |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UAF: DoEd to write letter from EduCom to library expressing sentiments. <p>24 hour spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Butts Wynd positive. ○ More spaces should be open during the weekend (eg. Gateway), especially during exam periods. ○ Even if Main Library opened an hour or two earlier it would make a massive difference during busy periods. <p>School specific spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Language department doesn't have clearly available study spaces. ○ Maths SP: no study spaces in the school except corridor with sofas. ○ Chemistry SP: study space for all undergraduate students only has 20 seats. ○ Issues with schools closing at 5pm/6pm which means rooms that are advertised cannot be used (specifically science and languages). ○ Sci/Med FP: Computer science lab with 200 spaces is always empty during exam periods. <p>Online booking system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Arabic/Persian SP: University website was very useful during COVID times but hasn't been as useful recently because difficult to access and navigate. ○ How would you cope if one person booked room intended for multiple people? ○ Butts Wynd rooms sometimes used by classes (timetable for these rooms could be beneficial). ○ timetables.St-Andrews-ac.uk website can help but have to know specific rooms- cannot choose from list of rooms. ○ Rooms often booked for classes/events but if these are cancelled the website isn't updated. ○ Art/Div FP: Centralised booking system even if just presidents have access to. For example, book room for first years to use at a specific time. <p>Postgraduate study spaces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ believe they do not have enough spaces because a lot commute (BUT Butts Wynd has a study room aimed at postgraduate commuters). | | |
| <p><u>Second Agenda Item: professor rating system</u> Pros:</p> | <p>Arts/Div FP</p> | <p>20 minutes</p> |

- Staff are often not open to feedback so maybe this would influence them.

Cons:

- Music SP: strongly opposes because all professors have proved themselves worthy of the job.
- Maths SP: could be a storm of controversy.
- IR SP: students can just use non-university sites- Fesdrews or Crushes of St Andrews are an outlet for students already.
- Open to discrimination.

MEQs:

- Arabic/Persian LC + Management SP: professor ratings are already a thing in MEQs.
- Maths SP: MEQ data only seems to be used in general sense for ranking and statistics.
- IR SP: university summarises feedback from MEQs to professors but softens or ignores poor feedback.

Feedback sessions:

- honors students to sub-honors students offering recommendations on modules and professors.
- IR SP: students only pick modules on assessment mode/ leniency of professors marking anyways. Philosophy SP: it's valid for students to choose modules based on different assessment modes.

URL:

- Arabic/Persian LC: is there ever anything like an OFSTED report for schools or lesson observations?
- Physics SP: External examiners report can aid with accountability and assessing professors.
- Chase: URLT is when the university reviews its teaching and learning. Occurs on a 6 year rolling basis. Review panel includes one student (usually DoED), PGR student (selected by CEED), one external member, and multiple staff members from different departments. Student Voice Report written

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| <p>by SP. Staff submit self-reflection and then quality officer at the university writes the report.</p> <p>To raise at UAF: express concerns over way feedback is taken. MEQs, SSCCs and URLTs as modes SPs are involved in. Need to express that we do not feel like we are being heard.</p> | | |
| <p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Symposium coming up. Please wear president merch. Lots of representation from different schools including postgraduates. - Academic Rep Intern: 1413 promotional videos. | <p>Arts/Div FP</p> | <p>5 minutes</p> |

Observers:

Resources: