

# Education Committee Meeting

*Date | Time* 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2023 6:00 PM | *Location* Small Rehearsal Room

Meeting called by	Education Executive Committee	Attendees: Fran, Kiki, Maggie, Rachel, Federica, Laurence, Catherine, Martyna, Carol, Anne, Ava, Andrew, Patricia, Kirsty, Zoe, Robbie W, Emma, Robbie C, Syna, Grace, Yasmin, Quinn, Rosa, Tom, Claire, Andrew, Kiera, Anna, Iona, Chase, Noah, Toni, Taylor, Carol Optional: n/a Apologies: Dan, Madeleine Absences: Please read:n/a Please bring: n/a
Type of meeting	Education Committee Meeting	
Facilitator	Faculty Presidents	
Note taker(s)	Toni	
Timekeeper	Toni	

## Agenda Item

Topic	Presenter	Time Allotted
Welcome	Martyna	5 minutes
Vote on the new Physics President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction of Carol Ballinger</li> <li>- EduCom voted unanimously in favor of Carol as the new School President for Physics and Astronomy</li> </ul>	Martyna	5 minutes
Motion on Placement Year Tuition Fees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ava (SP Biology) and Andrew (Rep in the School of Biology) presented a motion on Placement Year tuition fees.</li> <li>- This motion was brought up at UAF and will be presented to SRC.</li> <li>- Andrew outlined: the motion asks for the tuition fee policy to change as soon as possible and emphasises accessibility issues. As of now, students on placements receive minimal support and pay full tuition fees while being on un-paid placements. This weighs greatly on students' experiences and wellbeing.</li> <li>- Ava added that other universities do not make placements compulsory, whereas St Andrews does.</li> <li>- Ava invited other Schools (i.e. Chemistry) to join the motion. Currently, Chemistry, Physics and Math students have the option to stay in St Andrews which Biology students do not. Placements for students in Chemistry, Physics and Math are also often paid.</li> </ul>	Ava and Andrew	5 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Question</i> (Patricia – SP Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences): is there a way to ask the department to do a placement internally, as is the case for Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences? <i>Answer</i> (Ava): this has been done in the past but capacities are very limited.</li> <li>- Kirsty (SP Chemistry) added that tuition fees are regulated university-wide and therefore do not fall under the remit of individual Schools. Further, the issue was that the year is credited which demands tuition fee. By contrast, placement years in other institutions do not have credits. Ava replied that they have taken this argument into account in their motion. Andrew added that the placement year as of now includes a few tutorials across the entire year and some assignments which make the module almost entirely self-taught. For many students, the question arises: why pay full tuition fees if the level support and resources are at a lower level than other modules (which also require full tuition fees)? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Claire (SP Music Centre) added that it might be helpful to confront the University with two options: either more money or more support in accordance with full tuition fee should be provided, if tuition fees cannot be dropped.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Question</i> (Noah – Director of Education): has the School of Biology agreed with this motion and addressed different options? <i>Answer</i> (Ava): the Director of Teaching has shown support. Another meeting between Ava and the DoT will be next Monday (6<sup>th</sup> February 2023) where the specific motion will be addressed.</li> <li>- Noah raised that next week is UAF which pushes the timeline on voting.</li> <li>- <i>Action Point</i>: Grace (SP Geography &amp; Sustainable Development) will get testimonies from people currently on their placement years.</li> <li>- Agreement in principle on the current version of motion.</li> </ul>		
<p>Entry into Honours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- After last week’s discussion concerning the dropping of grades that allow entry into Honours from 11 to 7, Zoe (SP Maths &amp; Statistics) addressed this with the Director of Teaching in the School of Maths &amp; Statistics. During this meeting was raised that years ago there was a policy in place that students whose grades were between 7 and 11 people were offered to re-take exams. Zoe asked EduCom if anyone knows if this is a Uni-wide practice or specific to Schools.</li> <li>- Fran offered to find information on this.</li> </ul>	Zoe	5 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Noah added that the chances of this policy passing are pretty high. In the past, it was in the School’s remit to allow people to re-sit exams. Noah says that if the policy will not pass, the conversation surrounding re-taking exams will picked up again.</li> </ul>		
<p>Teaching Awards shortlisting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chase will share the powerpoint in the chat.</li> <li>- Submissions for Teaching Awards will open on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> and will close on 20<sup>th</sup> March.</li> <li>- This year the category of “Student Partnership” is added. This aims at awarding staff members who have made a significant contribution to the student experience in a School.</li> <li>- Chase outlined the process of shortlisting and choosing final candidates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o SPs and LCs will be offered to participate in the shortlisting process.</li> <li>o 8 people will make a review team. Class Reps will also be invited to participate in the reviewing process. Each shortlisting team will be led by an SP/LC. It will be up to each team how they decide to organise themselves.</li> <li>o Committee members will be asked to summarise their discussions and reasonings of choices for each category which will be presented to a larger group. Another committee will take it from there and decide on one candidate per category.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Training will be provided in advance.</li> <li>- Promotion templates for social media will be shared.</li> <li>- 20<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> March will be when shortlisting will take place.</li> <li>- Chase invites everyone to get in touch with him if interested.</li> <li>- Fran adds that the process is a very rewarding and fulfilling experience.</li> <li>- <i>Question</i> (Claire – SP Music Centry): is there a way to refuse unless SPs are paid? Catherine (SP English) responded that committee members were invited to the award ceremony with free dinner last year and added that visa regulations often make it difficult to offer payment. However, Catherine agreed that compensation is always appreciated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Chase agreed that SPs should always be paid for any of the work they do but there is currently no budget for this. Chase confirms that committee members will be invited to the award ceremony and after-drinks.</li> <li>o Noah added that SPs, being volunteers, can always refuse to take on a job.</li> <li>o Chase also emphasises that SPs and LCs should never be made to feel guilty for refusing a task.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Chase	15 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chase reminds EduCom of the report on excellent teaching by Evgeniya on the great impact of Teaching Awards. This will also be fed back to Directors of Teaching and Heads of School.</li> </ul>		
<p>Agenda for UAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UAF will be on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023 6.30pm in the Large Rehearsal Room.</li> <li>- Workshops for preparation will be offered next week: Monday at 5.30pm and Thursday at 1pm in the Sabb Office. These are recommended but not mandatory.</li> <li>- Organisation of UAF: members of EduCom will be assigned certain agenda points which they will bring up during UAF.</li> <li>- Agenda points that were mentioned in last week's survey: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Strikes</li> <li>o semester dates/academic calendar</li> <li>o extensions policy</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Claire (SP Music Centre) emphasised that more evidence will be needed. Catherine (SP English) added that there is a fine line between providing feedback without being pressed into having to present solutions. Catherine suggested running a shared doc with results from surveys on issues so that points can be backed up. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Fran (Faculty President Arts &amp; Divinity) responded that there is a shared doc for extension policies. Fran asked everyone to fill in this document. Fran also asked everyone to inform EduExec about limited capacities next week so that this can be balanced out.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <i>Question</i> (Zoe – SP Maths &amp; Statistics): will suggestions for solutions be provided or should EduCom approach UAF as a feedback space? <i>Answer</i> (Chase in the chat): “I would advise trying to collaborate with staff about solutions. Students should be empowered to make the changes they want to see, not just suggest them.” Fran also emphasised proactive discussions.</li> <li>- <i>Question</i> (Noah – Director of Education): how will the document be shared, considering that some people may not feel comfortable in the moment of the discussion? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Zoe suggested that the document be used at making claims as to what/how many Schools back up an argument. That means that the document will not be shared during UAF.</li> <li>o Patricia (SP Earth &amp; Environmental Sciences) emphasised that the next UAF should be aimed at being more collaborative than last time.</li> <li>o Emma (SP Psychology &amp; Neuroscience) advocated for purposefully withholding solutions that EduCom</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Martyna	20 minutes

<p>may have so that staff are encouraged to interact more proactively in the conversation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Summary:</i> Fran will share a doc with agenda points that people can sign up to in order to speak about at UAF. When signing up, this will be a commitment to speak. Noah will send out the agendy by Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February midday.</li> </ul>		
<p>AOCB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reminder about CEED mentoring by Feb 3<sup>rd</sup></li> <li>- Open timetables have moved their location and URL. They can now be found on MySaint under “Timetable.”</li> </ul>	Martyna	5 minutes

**Observers:** None

**Resources:**