



Education Executive
St Andrews Students Association

Meeting date: Thursday 2nd October 2025 (18:00-19:00)
Large Rehearsal Room (Student Union Building)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Meeting called by: Education Council Committee

Type of Meeting: Education Executive

Chair: Faculty Presidents

Note Taker(s): Nick Townsend

ATTENDANCE

Attendees: Faculty Presidents, President of Education, Nick Townsend (ARI), Amy McLaughlin (Academic Representation Coordinator). Toby Berryman, Alex Wiseman, Stella Pascale Bagchi, Ela Winter, Katherine Day, Andrew Edginton, Riya Narain, Reveca Revara, Truman Cunningham, Katriona Raffan, Sophia Bruno, Evie Fisher-Cook, Bhani Kaur, Ciara Rooney, Ingrid Yeung, Ellie Shaw, Clara Curtis, Sayda Bir, Charles Deregnacourt, Clair Hutton, Gregg Clark, Chloe Beechinor Collins, Hannah Straw, Evie Cullen, Emily Hadfield.

Online: None.

Apologies: Devina Naraindas Sainan, Pedro Silva, Ayra Ahmad, Abi Collins.

Absences: Alistair Grant

Guests: N/A

Minutes

Welcome and announcement of Class Rep Election winners for turnout and candidates

FP Ariane:

- Congratulations to Classics (1st) and German (2nd) as the winners of the highest candidate turnout!

- Congratulations to French (1st), then Physics and Astronomy (2nd) for the highest voter turnout!
- There are cash prizes for both – please come and collect them at the end

Education Council Updates (10 mins)

- a) *New Absences Policy (Faculty Presidents)*
- b) *Messenger Check (Faculty Presidents)*
- c) *Module Weightage (President of Education, Science/Medicine Faculty President)*
- d) *SaOSE Motion (President of Education)*
 - a. *Discussion*
 - b. *Vote*
- e) *Co-opt vacant positions by next Friday (Faculty Presidents)*
- f) *Past Agenda Examples (President of Education)*

FP Maya (Overview)

- Please inform us by email to both the FPs if you are not going to be able to attend the Education Executive in advance
- Could we please confirm that everyone is in the Facebook Messenger group chat? Some are currently not. If you are having any problems with this, please come and see EduCouncil at the end, and we will help you!

PresED and FPs (Overview)

- In follow-up to the last EduExec, the working group for module credit reorganisation is now established, and you will likely receive information on their work in the coming semester
- It is also a topic that could come up at the UAF. We would ask that you talk to your class reps about this and discuss their opinions beforehand. It would be really useful to find out how the student body responds to this intuitive

PresED (Overview of SaOSE Motion):

- Alice and Emily are running a 'Save our Scottish Education' campaign, which will also include colleges.
- All details are included in the motion and calls for increased funding for Scottish Education, amongst other aims.
- ***Motion can be viewed in full at the end of this document.***

Motion Passed: Unanimous Vote

FPs (Overview):

- The new School President of Divinity is here! Welcome to EduExec, we are pleased to have you and wish you all the best in the role!
- Additionally, please ensure that you fill (co-opt) any currently vacant class rep positions. We will establish a deadline for this.

PresED (Overview):

- Advice on agenda points for EduExec and encouragement for more agenda points

Election Debrief (5 mins, Faculty Presidents)

- a) Review of potential voting/nomination issues (e.g. eligibility limits, candidates not appearing, voting access)*
- b) Elections Incentive Results & Cash Prizes*

FP Maya (Overview):

- We are aware of problems with the voting system during the recent class rep elections
- We wanted to make you aware of the reasons that such issues existed and how they can be avoided in the future

Amy (Overview):

- We are dependent on Registry for who can vote and be nominated. This is dependent on full matriculation, which can be complicated/prevented by visa and other administrative issues.
- We hope that this will not be a problem in the future, as we hope to bring the election portal within the Students' Association. At the moment, we are reliant on the University's system to organise our voting

Representative meetings debrief & shared advice/activities (10 mins, Faculty Presidents)

- a) Overview*
- b) Discussion*

FP Maya (Overview):

- We would like to ask how your class rep meetings went! What went well, what would you do differently?
- How are you going to structure your meetings going forward?
- Do you have any questions you would like to ask?

Discussion:

- Biology President:
 - I am meeting once every two weeks with my Class Reps, just before each EduExec
- Film President
 - What should I do about unresponsive class reps after a follow-up email has been sent?
- PresED: (Response)

- Forward the name to EduCouncil (FPs and then PresED), and we will email them
 - If they do not reply to anything, we consider them vacant from their roles and will begin co-opting
- Anthropology President:
 - Careers Rep and 4th Year Rep want to start a department-focused mentorship scheme, which sounds like a really good idea
- Classics President:
 - I like this as an idea, but I worry this would become an unpaid tutoring scheme
- Comp Lit President
 - Everyone who studies Comp Lit is an English Student, but we are housed in the Modern Language department. At the same time, they are not English Students. Students, therefore, feel a crisis of identity in that they are not a particularly good fit for the department to which they belong to.
- Economics and Finance President:
 - Reps complained about not enough past paper questions – this is a constant complaint from Econ and Finance students
- Modern Languages President:
 - Our EDI Rep has come up with some good ideas
 - Firstly, different languages approach issues of gender inclusivity differently
 - It would be useful if there were more uniformity and a similar approach taken so that all students are aware of it.
 - We also thought it would be a good idea to create an EDI Prize – based on the Global Ambassador Prize.
 - The launch of the Global Ambassador Prize by the Global Office has gone down really well and increased engagement from students returning from their year abroad. We think that this could be replicated with other prizes
- French Convenor:
 - We are hosting a drop-in session with previous study abroad students at Brewco
 - The purpose is to ask informal questions, which we hope will increase awareness of the year abroad
- Russian Convenor:
 - We (with the Class Reps) are making a study abroad handbook for next year
 - Additionally, one of my class Reps in abroad next semester? What should we do?
- Mod Lang President:
 - I also have this problem
- PresED (Response):
 - Those who are studying abroad cannot easily be class representatives

- You can co-opt another rep for the role or/and we can arrange for a co-rep for them to be
- International Relations President:
 - One of my reps is a mature student and a first-year student. They want there to be more events for mature students at a university-wide level, so that the community can be well supported
- PresED (Response):
 - CCMFL organises events for this. It is worth getting in contact with them.
- Film President:
 - The EDI committee started a project that one room/area would always be available for mature students. I am happy to introduce you to Bridget Brady, who is organising that.
- Philosophy President:
 - Question regarding times for in-person class rep training. I do not have a time when all class reps can make it. What should I do?
 - What should happen when reps cannot make the SSCC?
- FP Ariane (Response):
 - This is an inevitability
 - Ensure that plenty of time is given in notice for the SSCC
 - Work around it the best you can
 - You can always set up a meeting with specific staff and the rep if there is an issue

School Technological Performance (10 mins)

- a) *Lecture Slides Ahead of Lectures Fulfilment (Science/Medicine Faculty President)*
 - a. *Discussion*
- b) *Email Volume from Schools (Arts/Divinity Faculty President)*
 - a. *Discussion*

FPs (Overview):

- We have previously had problems with technology in Schools. The chief issues have been lecture slide uploading before the lecture and large email volume
- We would like to know if this continues to be a problem

Discussion:

- Film President:
 - Lecture slides have been a problem. They are put up perhaps 30 minutes before the lecture.
- Economics and Finance:
 - A new member of staff is having some difficulty integrating with the technology. It has not been a significant problem.

- Art History:
 - It has been a major problem with Art History due to file size, and the download and upload speeds as a result
 - We get around the problem by asking students to contact the SP and then the SP goes to the DOT, and the DOT speaks to the specific member of staff
 - This has been successful in diffusing the situation rather than student-staff conflict
- FP Ariane
 - Can we have a show of hands of people who have heard of problems with technology in modules?

15% show of hands have problems with the lecture slides.

- Psychology President:
 - We have a problem with reading lists not being available early enough.
- Physics President:
 - A few lecturers have commented that they did not know that their reading list was not available to students
- Art History:
 - Students don't know that the reading list is manufactured by the library, not the department. The implications of this are important.
- FP Ariane
 - We have also had problems with the quantity of emails sent to students' inboxes by departments. Is this continuing?
- Classics President
 - We have had a problem with an email coming in 2 or 3 times a week on behalf of other students from the school's administrative office.
- French Convenor:
 - This was an issue that Tom, the previous convenor, sorted out. Last year, we had 4 emails a day sometimes, now we get very few, and they are useful
 - 4 Schools are sending at least 3 emails every week

Mid-semester survey review (5 mins, President of Education)

- Overview*
- Discussion*

- PresEd and Nick (Overview):
 - The original guest to this meeting could not make it, and they were going to talk to EduExec about how to create feedback forms
 - Come to us if you would like additional help with the class rep forms – Nick can help!

Headlines for Undergraduate Academic Forum (10 mins, President of Education)

- PresED and Faculty Presidents (Overview):
 - The UAF is a chance for us to express university-wide issues to the top officers of the university
 - Last year, we talked about industry placement fees and the university's grief policy, amongst other issues
 - There is a lot of variety of topics that can come up
 - Are there any issues we should discuss now?

Discussion

- International Relations President:
 - I am already receiving feedback that sub honours IR is feeling the strain of funding constraints
 - Class sizes have expanded, and tutorials are bigger
- Philosophy President:
 - We are also feeling the consequences of this. Tutorials are starting in Week 3. Why is there a cut in contact hours?
- Spanish Convenor:
 - The scarcity of resources is felt in Mod Lang as well
 - We can see a difference in contact hours between the languages, e.g. French and Spanish
 - We also have a disparity in class sizes
- French Convenor
 - French does very well for contact hours in comparison to the other hours
- Mod Lang President:
 - One of my reps has gone to the staff with this issue, with no successful solution. We have been advised to start using office hours for a wider purpose
- Economics and Finance:
 - This year, textbooks used at sub honours can only be viewed online; they cannot be downloaded
- Physics:
 - There are some modules which are taught significantly through textbooks. Those textbooks are not even available to download, and there are not enough physical copies.
- PresED:
 - What solutions could we propose?
- Philosophy President:
 - Cap the number of students you take into honours, or give schools the budget to teach

- PresED:
 - The reason for this current large quantity of undergraduates does have an explanation
 - There are not enough PGTs this year. There was not enough uptake. To compensate for this, the university upped the undergrad numbers as a result
 - This is why this one cohort of students is so big

AOCB (5 mins)

- PresED:
 - EduExec next time will be the Education Forum – all students are welcome to attend

Merch Cash Collection (**5 mins**, Academic Representation Intern)

Meeting adjourned

Motion of the President of Education in support of the 'Save Our Scottish Education' campaign.

University of St Andrews Students' Association Education Executive

Motion to launch the 'Save Our Scottish Education' campaign.

Prepared by:

Emily Bannister, *President of Education*
Alice Hodges, *President of Union Affairs*

Seconded by:

Robert Moran, *President of Student Opportunities*
Callum Irvine, *PGR President*
Pierluigi Maffi, *PGT President*
Alex Chun, *President of Wellbeing and Community*

Date prepared: 1st October 2025

This Education Executive notes:

1. Teaching funding for universities from the Scottish Funding Council has been relentlessly eroded.
2. International student fee income is being used to cross-subsidise the teaching of Scottish students. International students are required to pay approximately double the amount for the teaching they receive- this is unreasonable.
3. That colleges are an essential part of the tertiary landscape in Scotland, and that it is wrong to exclude them from this campaign. There are 24 colleges in 13 regions across Scotland,

delivering around 63 million hours of learning to 218,145 learners every year. Colleges are the biggest delivery agent of modern apprentices, supporting 14,420 students.¹

4. This follows from SRC motion R-23-14, Motion to establish a campaign ‘SOS Universities: Save Our Scottish Universities,’ brought forward by the previous Association President. This further follows from motion R-24-04, Motion to continue the ‘Save Our Scottish Universities’ campaign.

This Education Executive believes:

1. Our government must invest in education now, recognising it as a fundamental pillar of our society and economy.
2. Our government must guarantee a quality student experience for all through the immediate development and implementation of a comprehensive national strategy- with student input- that addresses funding and resources.
3. Our government must end the unsustainable reliance on international student fees by developing alternative funding models that prioritise accessibility and affordability for all students.
4. Our government must retain its commitment for free tuition for Scottish students.
5. Our government must deliver a fair living wage to all apprentices, recognising their valuable contribution to our economy, and ensuring they can afford to live and learn.

This Education Executive resolves:

1. To work with other students’ association Sabbatical and Executive Officers, and others in the sector, to campaign for an improvement in Higher Education funding- both for colleges and universities.
2. To submit an open letter to government ministers with other Student Association Officers to express our dismay at the funding landscape.
3. To educate students on this issue and its impact on their university experience.

¹ <https://collegesscotland.ac.uk/key-college-facts/#:~:text=Colleges%20have%20been%20in%20existence,to%20218%2C145%20learners%20every%20year>