

# Education Committee Meeting

*Date | Time* 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 6:00 PM | *Location* UCO:32

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

## Agenda Item

Topic	Presenter	Time Allotted
<p>UAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1<sup>st</sup> December 6-7pm at The Stage in the Student Union</li> <li>- Agenda points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o What has been raised previously: Integrated Masters fees</li> <li>o Zoe would like to address the academic calendar</li> <li>o <i>Question</i> (Patricia): How many agenda points should be raised? <i>Answer</i> (Noah): it depends on what issues everyone would like to raise. Noah suggests raising the lecture capture policy and general support systems. <i>Action Point</i> for Toni: invite a representative from Students Services to UAF. Noah suggests that someone from Career Centre could also be invited if SPs and LCs wish so.</li> <li>o Patricia brings up learning spaces: there are no rooms in the Bute and other study spaces are busy at this time of the semester. Several SPs second this. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noah adds on the issue of the main library: for the work during the inter-semester break there will be electrical shutdowns. In order to go through with those works, the current construction work needs to be done by the end of the semester.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Martyna	30 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Zoe adds that the Physics library is also an issue which means that there is no study space on North Haugh. Several SPs second this.</li> <li>▪ <i>Action Point</i> for Toni: invite a representative from the library to UAF.</li> <li>▪ <i>Action Point</i> to EduExec: inquire into the current state of the building next to the Purdie building and find out whether this could be used as a study space.</li> <li>○ Rosa adds: Schools have different budgets at their disposal that SPs can use. Rosa would like to raise at UAF this issue in order to advocate for a budget standardisation</li> <li>○ Patricia adds: first-year students seem to be struggling with general study skills. In Earth Sciences specifically, many students seem to not have taken chemistry classes in their past. The School has contacted CEED about this, but CEED say that this issue does not fall under their responsibilities. Kirsty agrees and adds that Schools do not have staff resources to take this on. Other SPs agree that core skills (i.e. essay writing skills) have significantly declined which has been brought up by DoTs. <i>Action Point</i> for Toni: invite representatives from International Education Institute and CEED <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Catherine would like to address exam preparation especially for sub-honours students because some Schools are going back to full in-person exams. Some students have not taken any exams for three or four years and are lacking the preparation. The School of English is hosting exam preparation sessions but wider preparation or material should be given to DoTs. A push for DoTs to provide preparation resources should also be addressed. Catherine adds that a volunteer scheme with Honours students could help with training core study skills – even with monetary compensation (if funding was available).</li> <li>▪ Patricia adds that the School of Earth Sciences has a mentoring scheme. However, this scheme does not aim at providing the core skills that lack, and instead has a different focus.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Zoe adds that the School of Maths &amp; Stats has asked students for their previous experiences in surveys which may be useful for Schools to know.</li> <li>○ Fran relates from this week's SSEMG meeting where the housing issue was addressed and emphasises that this year's housing struggles are particularly bad. By 2025/26 there will be another building with another 150 bedrooms. The university is limiting the number of incoming students and is trying to work with Fife Council to change HMOs. The uni is also working on acquiring more university-managed accommodation in town. Noah adds, that tenants in university-managed accommodation have fewer rights than in private accommodation, though. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maggie adds that it is worth bringing up accommodation but this may not be the most pressing issue from SP side.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Anna raises the cost-of-living crisis as an agenda point for UAF. In the School of Philosophy, the DoT and staff have been resistant in incorporating similar actionst as in the School of English (re-allocation of funds to provide support)</li> <li>○ Noah emphasises that LCs and SPs are encouraged to reach out via email with points for the agenda!</li> </ul>		
<p>Consultation on extenuating circumstances + extension policies + Achievements forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Learning and teaching committee is a selection of DoTs across the university and has a day-away meeting soon.</li> <li>- Many policies that were put in place during Covid are about to expire or have expired.</li> <li>- DoTs noticed that policies have improved wellbeing-related matters and attainment gaps so they would like to keep both in place. They ask Noah (and by extension EduCom) for input about policies and fairness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Noah asks for any insight from SPs and LCs but also acknowledges that this request is rather last-minute.</li> <li>○ Input is asked concerning extension policies (deferrals and coursework) and extenuating circumstances (including S-coding).</li> <li>○ Emma brings up that the DoT for Psychology &amp; Neuroscience would like to make it easier for students who are registered as disabled to get an extension.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Noah	10 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noah adds that there is already some structure like this in place but the implementation differs from School to School</li> <li>○ Kirsty adds that there is a discrepancy between what Student Services say and what lecturers say. Often staff cite that deadlines often pile up if extensions are granted,</li> <li>○ Rosa adds: one issue occurred two years ago when students who got an extension got an advantage because content was covered later on in the module. This needs to be taken into account</li> <li>○ Zoe adds that evidence for extenuating circumstances differs widely across Schools. Noah adds that even different DoTs within each School apply policies differently.</li> <li>- There is space for limited SP attendance on 7<sup>th</sup> December 12-5pm (during exam time!). For the first hour SPs are invited. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Madeleine Houghton and Robbie Wallace express interest.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>Elections presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semester 2 elections: Chase presents on what the election process will look like. The PowerPoint presentation will be shared. Reminder to SPs and LCs to read the slides in the presentation, as they contain important action points for the next few weeks in preparation.</li> <li>- In the past, these elections were run by the DoWell with student support. This year, this will be run differently. SPs and LCs mainly have to communicate elections and voting now during this time.</li> <li>- <i>Reminder</i> to SPs and LC to make sure that they have a successor.</li> <li>- <i>Reminder</i> to SPs and LCs to attend academic hustings</li> <li>- Noah adds that all of EduExec will have office hours for people interested in the positions of DoEd and Faculty Presidents.</li> </ul>	Chase	15 minutes
<p>Christmas Dinner Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Toni apologises for the back-and-forth in organisation.</li> <li>- The holiday dinner will now take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in Fran's flat.</li> <li>- <i>Action Point</i> for EduCom to RSVP via the form shared in the Facebook group and the Teams channel.</li> </ul>	Toni	5 minutes

**Observers:** None

**Resources:**