

Education Committee Meeting

Date | Time 24th November, 2022 5:30 PM | *Location* UCO:32

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

Agenda Item

Topic	Presenter	Time Allotted
<p>UAF: Discussion Point Discussion/Debate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There will be an email reminder about UAF next week. - Reminder that this will take place in The Stage. - Agenda points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o General wellbeing and academic calendar: Frank (Provost) will attend. o Learning spaces: reps from library and IT are invited. o Study skills for first-year students: reps from CEED and IEI are invited. o Other points: SP budgets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noah suggests moving this to next semester o Cost of living and housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noah highlights that this falls outside the remit of EduCom and therefore might consume too much time of the 60 minutes UAF. - Noah suggests discussing today how to approach these topics. - Fran asks all SPs and LCs to communicate respectfully at UAF. This is aimed at being a dialogue space. Fran emphasises that SPs and LCs should therefore be prepared to answer questions in response to their questions - Noah emphasises that some issues may be entirely new to University staff attending UAF and emphasises that anger will not make them more receptive towards issues raised. 	Fran and Noah	30 minutes

<p>Both Noah and Fran emphasise that UAF is meant to build a relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fran asks everyone to dedicate 10-15 minutes over the next week to preparing what they would like to bring up and what their motivation is as preparation for UAF. - Masters Tuition Fees (additional agenda point) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ava's rep has been planning on putting together a survey but Ava has not heard back from them yet so there is no certainty in having heard back from them by UAF. o Fran answers that the LCs also brought this up in the past and emphasises that this is a good idea to raise. Dan notes that languages are similarly affected by this. o Dan adds that he would like to hear the rationale behind justifying this. Ava responds the only justification may be that credits count towards degree and that students receive some sort of teaching. Kirsty adds that this is what Kirsty has been told for Chemistry. - Academic Calendar (additional agenda point) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o <i>Question</i> (Robbie W): Did the SPs and LCs last year receive a PDF file about the justification and student opinions last year? Dan asks for access for that. o <i>Action Point</i> for Fran: Fran promises to find this document and pass it on. Noah adds that he had received the PDF document at the beginning of his term but emphasises that the data were very different than results that were drawn from it due to the large gap in time. Due to covid there was no capacity to fully shift everything in accordance with the planned changes. Also, even at the time students raised that the survey was not well and transparently circulated. - Question (Anna): how formal this will be? Answer (Fran): it is not formal, there is no need to dress formally. - UAF Agenda Point: First-year students skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Patricia has had more conversations about this issue in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. While the DoT has raised this issue with Patricia, senior staff members have pointed out that this is not necessarily something that has occurred in past years. 		
--	--	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dan adds that due to Covid, teaching practices were changed in schools which impacted higher level classes. For this reason, students are now unprepared. ○ Madeleine relates an entire class in second year failed a mock test. The School is setting coursework which used to be open book and is now changed to closed book without changing the actual format. ○ Anna adds that this lack of study skills is a major issue in Philosophy as many students take the subject as a third module. The introduction to Subhonours is never attended. Anna asks for advice on how to raise attendance? Patricia adds that this is not within the remit of the SP. Fran emphasises that many schools are going to face a major reflection moment after first rounds of exams back in person this semester. Fran also stresses that SPs will bring up the lack of support. ○ Madeleine adds that students for German were told that they were not going to sit exams and yet they are doing that now. Madeleine has sent out a survey which shows that students are not feeling comfortable going back to in-person exams yet. Fran recommends setting up a meeting with DoT and raise at UAF that student input is not being considered in decision making processes. - Kirsty asks if there is anything to read in advance for preparation? Robbie adds that he found the PDF document and will share this with everyone. - General wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reminder: if SPs and LCs are asked a question at UAF that they do not feel comfortable answering, they are very encouraged to communicate this. Nobody is expected to explain holistically the general drop of wellbeing or to present solutions to issues. ○ Noah emphasises that the University of St Andrews has the widest engagement with Students Services and the highest ratio of staff per student which may make it difficult to follow a line of argument around wellbeing resources. Noah emphasises to keep in mind a framework for how to raise the wellbeing point. ○ Fran reiterates that everyone can reach out with questions. 		
--	--	--

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Claire emphasises that a major issue in wellbeing discussions are extensions and how they differ between different schools, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Madeleine emphasises that there are great inconsistencies even among staff, within and between Schools. Claire asks for communication on consistency. Several SPs agree. ○ Kirsty adds that this was discussed in Chemistry back in august as there was confusion among students if students services could grant extension. The School came up with a blanket policy: online standardised forms have to be filled out. This could be extended to other schools. ○ Madeleine emphasises that support beyond extensions should be discussed as well. ○ Noah adds: there are Wellbeing Officers in some schools that can cover the holes that are left otherwise but they do do their wellbeing duties in addition to their regular job. They get assigned 4 hours per week. This year particularly, wellbeing officers have been overwhelmed. 		
<p>How UAF Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-meeting similar to pre-EduCom - Setup will be a double horse-shoe structure looking at stage. People who join online will be screened to the side screens. - Two sessions to orient everyone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One session: Wednesday (with Noah) – in Sabb office ○ Second session: Thursday (with FPs) – in the union. Further clarification soon ○ Reminder to all of EduCom: Those who would like to raise a point are encouraged to attend these sessions to talk through strategy with Noah in order to increase impact. - Noah again emphasises calm and respectful conversational tone 	Noah	15 minutes
<p>Increasing MEQ response rate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fran shares response rates so far which are pretty low (available via Teams). - Fran shares different ways of circulating MEQs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reach out to DoT and module coordinators so that they can send them out ○ Ask Reps to share in chats ○ create QR code to share 	Fran	10 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ask if ten minutes of seminars can be dedicated to filling out the MEQ ○ With funding (EDF): raffle draw can be organised - Catherine emphasises that there have been issues in communication of when MEQs were released in the School of English so that Catherine started posting later than Catherine would have wanted to. Fran offers support in sharing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ava too had to email the School Office to remind module coordinators that MEQs were up already. - Noah relates there have long been issues with MEQs. There was going to be a review this year and one one trial of an analytic software has been dropped. MEQs run differently for every School. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noah suggests running a workspace as for Good Practice to gather general feedback on MEQs. ○ Noah points out that it is not technically EduCom's responsibility to promote MEQs since they are university-run. - Question (Robbie): did SPs and LCs ever get to use data? Answer (Fran): no. Noah adds that this conversation has been had but was dropped after it was asked if MEQ results can be shared with SPs and LCs. 		
<p>Open discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question (Dan): Has there ever been a discussion of compensation to students for lost teaching time due to strikes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Noah replies: it has been brought up but compensation is difficult to quantify. The university is also not gaining money from strikes. Compensation is also not being done anywhere in the sector so there is no great likelihood of this conversation to go anywhere. - Question (Kirsty): Can a Rep host a takeover of the SP Instagram account? Answer (Martyna): Kirsty can grant permission. Noah agrees and emphasises to talk to them first about what they want to share. 		5 minutes

Observers: None

Resources: