



Education Committee Meeting

Date / Time 21st September 2023, 5:30 PM | *Location* Large Rehearsal Room, Student Union

Meeting called by	Education Executive Committee	Attendees: Serena, Rebekah, Harry (Chem), Calum, David, Gemma, Syna, River, Samira, Sadie, Olivia, Daria, Ruchi, Krish, Shreya, Harry (ModLang), Anna, Chloe-Anna, Phoebe, Kiera, Fredrick, Harriet, Rohin, Christy
Type of meeting	Education Committee Meeting	Optional: n/a
Facilitator	Faculty Presidents	Absences: Michael, James, Anastasia, Tom, Sydney
Note taker(s)	Hitanshi/Delara	Please read: n/a
Timekeeper	Delara	Please bring: n/a

Agenda Item

Topic	Presenter	Time Allotted
Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic Intern took role - Chase on teams - Birthday wishes are given to Calum, CS president 	Hitanshi and Delara	5 minutes
Academic Calendar <p>The University is looking to see if there is any opposition to old models or not.</p> <p>EduCom members are individually giving their members to Hitanshi through teams.</p> <p>Members are discussing how best to move forward with sending EduCom's opinion to the University (Daria and Krish).</p> <p>It has been decided that Hitanshi she will summarise individual points that have been brought up for and against each calendar model.</p> <p>Daria has brought up a social media aspect on the calendar to get the word out. Include ideas in emails and posters are being handed out to be hung in schools.</p> <p>Official Voting:</p>	Hitanshi	25 minutes

<p>Model 0 – 0 Model 1 – 4 Model 2a - 20 Model 2b - 2</p> <p>DoEd brought up how we need more students to answer academic calendar survey.</p> <p>Syna asked the Maths, CS, and Physics presidents how many people take part in spring weeks for stem schools. She is trying to make a point for active placement programs for spring weeks as she wants us to take into account spring weeks for stem students. She brought up how spring weeks help hand summer internships which intern land jobs after graduations. Calum (CS president) says how first and second years go into spring weeks and how students have coursework and are likely not to take part. Krish (Maths president) brought up how students, maths students in particular, don't know about it.</p> <p>Syna asked Maths CS and Physics president to send out forms to get student response.</p> <p>It is pointed out by Management President Model 1 – takes into account spring weeks.</p> <p>Anna(Physics President) asked if spring weeks are all the same. Syna mentions how since the University is bringing a business school, spring weeks are pertinent and we should want to make the change now as weeks students are missing studies to go to spring week and. She also brings up the concern that the academic calendar will have to change in a few years to accommodate this. They are in favour of model 2A, which has two weeks then revision. It it brought up that those two weeks have deadlines and do not allow for a spring week.</p> <p>Anna says, the numbers for physics are likely to not be high and is asking Syna about possible coursework extensions instead of changing the calendar as only a few schools are interested.</p> <p>Syna responds that previously, UAF staff hasn't been open to an extensions policy as they don't want to change for spring weeks.</p> <p>Management president explains that the model suitable for spring weeks reduces vacation for staff which isn't acceptable so it cannot be included. Syna adds that other schools would like to take part in spring weeks, not just stem.</p> <p>Krish brings up how one less week is already very tight and how staff are upset about the little time they have now.</p> <p>Daria acknowledges how it is not fair to give concessions, in the form of extensions, to some and not all. It is brought up how</p>		
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<p>two students had internships with MP's in March and how the UN internships are in January, which doesn't allow students to take part. Students also have to make up work missed while continuing current work.</p> <p>Phoebe asks why there can't be an extra week added in 2B.</p> <p>DoEd(Cam) explains that the University said they wanted to change the calendar and provided models for a new one based on key issues. Cam also mentioned how everything, including the calendar change, must go through senate and we are aiming for the calendar to go through the December senate as we are aiming for a calendar change in 2024-2025, next academic year. Especially since people do not like this model and SAABS said it must change even though the University did not want to budge. We are at a point where if one model is not decided upon and does not pass we will have to wait for the 2025-2026 academic year.</p> <p>Phoebe mentions how we should keep in mind disputes with staff and not inflame teaching disputes.</p> <p>Freddie mentions how at UAF they said they will not allow extensions policy's and if internships are necessary there needs to be in discussion about those time frames.</p> <p>DoEd bring up the idea of a new extensions policy which was decided to not be explored.</p> <p>Harry(Modern Lang president) is backing Daria up in her opinion</p> <p>The University is pushing as a leading school for IR, where students can't take internships.</p> <p>It it is brought up how concessions should not be made for one school and not others again.</p> <p>If there are reduced weeks does that mean reduced fees</p> <p>DoEd says no.</p> <p>Another question asks if staff will be paid less.</p> <p>DoEd says they will not be paid less, and that staff will work within contract.</p> <p>Anna asks about what other universities do for spring weeks.</p> <p>Syna responds that all other schools fall inline with spring break and how since we, St Andrews, are trying to compete with business schools we should act like them.</p> <p>Callum brings up a hesitancy towards extensions. CS and Chem are not signed up to a policy and it will be hard to agree on a university wide policy for spring week, especially since there are no CS extensions for internships.</p>		
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<p>Hitanshi has brought up how extensions need to be discussed, both foreseen and unforeseen circumstances, ie. Health issues vs Spring Week, asks for it to be discussed in future EduCom. Syna circles back and brings up about how St Andrews in becoming a business school and we need to make change. She uses Econ's 1 day no questions asked extension policy along with Management's 3-day no questions asked policy. Since CS is reluctant, UAF/ university staff is reluctant in having one extensions policy.</p> <p>Daria asks why can't management and E-commerce plan assessments around spring week, as Econ and Management president have brought this issue up. The response is that with the 2A model there is likely to be assignments in the last two weeks.</p> <p>Daria argues for specific schools to change their policies vs everyone changing as she says it is unfair and foreseeable.</p>		
<p>Exams</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the current status of exams in your respective schools? • Are you concerned with the format of exams and/or support for approaching them? • Can EduCom come to a consensus on approaches to exams? <p>Tabled as we are running out.</p>	Hitanshi	15 minutes
<p>Group Chats 5 mins</p> <p>a. What is expected of school Presidents</p> <p>It is not required for school presidents to and moderate group chats, but it is up to dissection.</p> <p>Opened to recommendations:</p> <p>Daria mentions how she added a link to sign up to group chats in the emails for first years.</p> <p>Hitanshi recommended that presidents tell class reps to handle this item.</p> <p>Social Media and WhatsApp are recommended for chat platforms.</p> <p>Kristen asks if group chats need to be moderated.</p> <p>Harry, (Modern Lang Pres) asks if they are allowed to kick people out of group chats if they're acting unsavoury and awful, especially if it is covered under harassment.</p> <p>Hitanshi answers by saying that presidents can act and use their authority as president. If something occurs in person, presidents have more accountability. It should be noted that there are formal procedures to escalate issues, if you decided to take on issues.</p> <p>b. Sharing good practice on what has worked well for various schools</p>	Matthiew/Hitanshi	10 minutes

AOCB:

Hitanshi reminds everyone that next week's EduCom is important as it covers industrial action and strikes and that Harry, the president is coming. Everyone should come in prepared as the whole hour is industrial action.

Exams are being tabled to week 5.

Observers: None

Resources: None

Education Committee Members

Education Executive

	Name	Position
1	Cam Brown	Director of Education
2	Matthew Ko	Science and Medicine Faculty President
3	Hitanshi Badani	Arts and Divinity Faculty President
4	Callum Irvine	Post-graduate Research Officer
5		Post-graduate Taught Officer
6	Chase Greenfield	Academic Representation Coordinator

School Presidents and Language Convenors

	Name	Position
1	Serena Mundy	Art History School President
2	Rebekah Bryson	Biology School President
3	Harry Burrows	Chemistry President
4	Michael Christopher Pagano	Classics School President
5	Calum Naughton	Computer Science School President
6	David Byrne	Divinity School President
7	Gemma Laker	Earth and Environmental Sciences School President
8	Syna Singh	Economics & Finance School President
9	River Stilwell	English School President
10	Sairaa Bains	Film President
11	Sadie Hassman	Geography & Sustainable Development School President
12	Olivia Benbow	History School President
13	Daria Gusa	International Relations School President
14	Ruchi Dadu	Management School President
15	Krish Chaudhary	Mathematics & Statistics School President
16	Shreya Apsani	Medicine School President
17	Harry Brett-Butcher	Modern Languages School President
18	James McNinch	Music Centre
19	Mariana Razina	Philosophy School President
20	Anna Conti	Physics & Astronomoy School President
21	Chloe-Anna Hunt	Psychology & Neuroscience School President
22	Phoebe Dobie	Social Anthropology President
23	Anastasia Jeffcoat	Arabic & Persian Convenor
24	Kiera Martin	Chinese Convenor
25	Federica Consiglio	Comparative Literature Convenor
26	Tom Rippon	French Convenor

27	Harriet White	German Convenor
28	Rohin Buch	Italian Convenor
29	Sydney Ash	Russian Convenor
30	Christy Forshaw	Spanish Convenor