

Education Committee Meeting

Date | Time 16th March, 2023 6:00 PM | *Location* Small Rehearsal Room, Student Union

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

Agenda Item

Topic	Presenter	Time Allotted
Welcome	Martyna	5 minutes
UAF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martyna clarifies the new structural changes to the Undergraduate Academic Forum: the agenda will consist of two points brought forth by students, one by members of University staff. - Fran adds that the Proctor will be attending next week's UAF (23rd March 2023). - Fran asks for members of EduCom to indicate what topic they would like to speak on. Several officers put themselves forward. Agenda: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Academic Calendar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wellbeing: Robbie W (SP Computer Science) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Students (short break, less time for dissertations, rises in extensions): Carol (SP Physics & Astronomy) Career Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring week: Syna (SP Economics & Finance) and Fran (FP Arts & Divinity) Applications for jobs Staff-suggested topic: extensions 	Martyna	35 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Staff highlighted amounts of extensions. - Fran (FP Arts & Divinity) elaborates that staff might be looking for focus points in the conversation surrounding extensions and may approach the space with questions. Fran emphasises the importance of keeping priorities in mind, as this can steer the conversation. - Noah (Director of Education) elaborates on the new changes: University staff have been trying different ways of gathering feedback as alternatives to the medium of surveys. Recent examples of that have been the Race Equality Charter and the Wellbeing Barometer which both showed drastically different response rates. Vouchers and different media of engagement have helped. Furthermore, staff have been analysing posts on anonymous pages (i.e. Fessdrews) surrounding wellbeing and academic experiences. This also sparked conversations about what data prove valuable. For this reason, staff prompted changes to UAF structures in ways that adapt to different demands. - Noah asks for experiences on what has worked and has not worked well when conducting surveys – and also what officers would like to pass on to successors. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fran (FP Arts & Divinity): reserving 10 minutes at the end of a class to fill out a survey has helped. ○ Robbie (SP Computer Science): printing out a QR code and sticking to celebrations box that is distributed in classes helped. ○ Ava (SP Biology) emphasises the power of talking in person in class. Some lecturers took the final class for feedback (compulsory attendance) which encouraged engagement and discussions. ○ Laurence (SP Divinity): having people in their respective classes advertise surveys for SSCCs prove useful. After circulating two types of surveys, it became apparent that students were more responsive to writing answers instead of filling out multiple choice questions. - Noah (Director of Education) asks if members of EduCom would like to brainstorm more approaches. Members of EduCom are happy with the feedback brought up and stress the importance of talking about the academic calendar. - Noah (Director of Education) clarifies that a division will be maintained between ongoing structures in place (i.e. through the Disability Office) which should include all students (PG and UG) and ad-hoc extensions. The University is now trialling an online platform that would house any overarching policies. Updates will follow in 1 month. 		
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<p>Other points to be possibly raised at UAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quinn (French Convenor): some students related that they had deadlines the Monday after winter break for which they could not reach out to members of staff in time because of the break. Quinn suggests proposing a no-deadlines period for a few days (i.e. 3 days) after winter break to allow for students to reach out to members of staff for potential need for clarification. Federica (Comparative Literature Convenor) expresses support. Patricia (SP Earth & Environmental Sciences) adds that this is also a matter of work ethic expectations: if staff are taking a break, students should also be able to take a break. - Patricia (SP Earth and Environmental Sciences) raises that the issue of high admission rates has not been properly addressed. The answer has often been that buildings are being built to accommodate for high student population but those will not be finished until 2025. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Noah (Director of Education) clarifies that members of staff have confirmed that student admissions are doing to decrease. Noah explains that halls are not built yet because the University does not have an endowment to build it; in order for the government not to say that the University is using money irresponsibly, rent would have to go up significantly. As that would not address the housing crisis, it was decided to put the building of halls on hold. The University is currently looking into alternatives: there are 160 flats opening outside town for early-career academics and PhD students next year which will relieve local structures. More projects are being undertaken. - Zoe (SP Maths & Statistics) asks: what results did the advising survey bring? Fran (FP Arts & Divinity) answers: 37 responses. 22 people responded that they had experienced issues with being advised in the past. Fran points out that this is not representative of the issue presented to UAF last time. 		
<p>Question concerning ChatGPT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zoe (SP Maths & Statistics) asks: Could Robbie (SP Computer Science) explain the new update on ChatGPT? - Robbie (SP Computer Science) explains that the new version of ChatGPT is out, but with paid-only access. This version has the ability to understand pictures and diagrams. - Fran (FP Arts & Divinity) relates that this was discussed at senate. The University updated academic conduct rules that render the use of ChatGPT as misconduct. 	Zoe and Robbie	5 minutes

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noah (Director of Education) clarifies that other universities consider ChatGPT in their formulations of general conduct: if properly cited, it can be used. This is something that is being incorporated into their practices. - Robbie (SP Computer Science) adds that Google is meant to release a different one soon which is meant to be excell at statistics. 		
<p>Vacancy after elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EduExec expresses sincere gratitude to everyone who helped during elections and congratulates those who got re-elected. - 28.9% voter turnout. - Two vacancies: Russian Convenor and Arabic & Persian Convenor. They will either be co-opted soon or by-elected during the September elections. Chase (Academic Representation Coordinator) asks for thoughts on this. - Alice (Arabic & Persian Convenor) points out that a lot of students in Arabic & Persian Studies in their current second year will go abroad next year which is the reason why nobody stood for election. Alice asks if EduCom will still operate in hybrid mode next academic year. Martyna (FP Science & Medicine) clarifies that this is up to next year's EduExec. Federica (Comparative Literature Convenor) adds that it is easier to organise and communicate when being in St Andrews, as there is no great sense of community when being abroad. Federica does not recommend being an officer while being abroad but expresses that it is doable. - Shadowing and handover <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Noah (Director of Education) suggests work shadowing for successors i.e. in meetings or in email inbox. o Current officers are in position until June. o Noah expresses invitation for successors to join UAF and/or EduCom (30th March) o Noah encourages reaching out to successors. o Reminder to start working on handover documents (i.e. social media passwords). Fran (FP Arts & Divinity) has written a general document for timelines and general guidelines which will be sent out for feedback to EduCom and then passed on to successors. o Ava (SP Biology) asks: can projects be passed on that currently being worked on? Noah (Director of Education: Yes, definitely. 	Martyna and Noah	5 minutes
<p>Teaching Awards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminder to submit nominations. 	Martyna	5 minutes

AOCB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminder of tonight's movie night. - Reminder to RSVP for end-of-year dinner by Monday 20th March 2023. 	Martyna and Toni	5 minutes
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Observers: None

Resources: