

**Education Committee**

**Thursday 12th March, 5:30pm**

**Students’ Association Committee Room**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Apologies
Eva (Graduate School), Beth (Maths & Stats), Ellie (Italian), Angela (Art History), Kyle (Philosophy)
3. Matters Arising
* Study Abroad (Sam Lister, Director of the Global Office)

Sam director of the global office

Brand new department founded in August 2019. Designed to bring together international engagement activities, and provide help/info about everything to do with studying abroad. The study abroad strategy is still being developed. Brexit is unhelpful (Erasmus). Positive: the UK gov committed to having a national target for outbound mobility for undergrads. The strategy is to double the number of undergrads who spend time abroad. St Andrews is above 13% in terms of how many students study abroad. For undergrads, 2 options; St Andrews abroad, where the global office will negotiate with other institutions around the world that students can go to. These exchanges are open to all except medicine. Number of school opportunities; school abroad. This is specifically set up by schools, have options based on what school. 1-5 options usually.

**Questions/Comments about study abroad?**

Lot: Is there a stimulus for schools to have a study abroad option?

Sam: There has become more of a stimulus because of the demand at visiting days, eg. Students are more likely to accept an offer with the prospect of going abroad available to them.

Ole: One issue in modern languages is accommodation. For programs that only do one semester, some students don’t want to go because it’s difficult to find accommodation once you return to St Andrews.

Sam: Students going abroad are usually given top priority when returning and there have not been issues with students not finding accommodation.

* Wellbeing Officers (Flora Smith, Director of Wellbeing)

Flora: wellbeing officers currently: some schools have others not. New strategy = all schools have wellbeing officers yay! Will be discussed at academic forum (whenever that will be).

Wellbeing class reps: used to exist in some schools, the role was taken away because of health and safety issues eg students asking for help from the reps that they weren’t trained to give. There may be an opportunity to restructure and reintroduce the role in a way that is safer to student’s health.

There may be more than one wellbeing officer (staff/students)

* School Presidents' Forum Agenda Items (AB)

Discussed items for the agenda:

Cafe space/pricing – Morganne and Nathan continue be given the run around.

* SLUG Agenda Items (AB)

Wednesday 1st of April. Any items for the agenda?

Elisa: Online streaming service update

* Second-hand Libraries in Schools (AB)

Anyone with a second hand lib?

Lot: Geological Soc have a second hand library, students can take books out.

This is mainly for second-hand books to get a new home. Speak to DoT about supporting it.

* Handovers with Incoming School Presidents (AB)

Make sure you are preparing the handover document, and arrange a handover for after spring break! Also make sure they are included in the last committee meetings you are a part of.

* Academic Alerts for Tutorials during Strikes (SR on behalf of KVO), [hijacked by] Academic Alerts across schools (MW & SB)

Sophia: In Philosophy, Some students get academic alerts on strike days where tutorials were cancelled (due to strikes).

Morganne: in Chem, if you miss an assignment you get a warning almost instantly

In comp sci, this doesn’t happen. It would be great if they were distributed on a ping system more consistently across schools.

Amy: When we raised this idea with the deans, they mentioned it produces anxiety for students to get academic alerts.

Morganne: rather than an immediate academic alert, students who forget/miss a deadline should get a notification from MMS alerting them.

Sophia: People forget smaller deadlines too, this would be helpful for this scenario too.

Amy: This will be added to the SPF agenda

As for academic alerts during strikes:

* Flu shots for students (NZ)

In light of current events, the Uni should introduce free flu shots to EVERYONE, not just the immuno-compromised. The goal for now would be to push a survey to judge interest and impact from/on students.

Comments: perhaps now in light of the pandemic, this might be misleading/biased? -> this might not be bad, hygiene is good!

Amy: will speak to DoWell and BigPres about this. Should be careful not to suggest things that the university cannot accomplish.

1. AOCB

 Joe: SPAG first meeting! Discussed was:

 -Agreed to redefine some training from career centre to SPs

 -SPs will meet with successors to come up with a calendar of events / school that can be incorporated now

 -More meetings with career centre advisor for feedback and making changes known

 -Re-development of career website pushed back

 -Next: SAP (Student advisory panel) (next year)

 **Forward emails about dissertation related issues due to Coronavirus to your DoT.**

 **Also there is a coronavirus helpdesk! It would appear this was set up for your coronavirus queries. *Please* consider utilising this service.**