



University of St Andrews Students' Association Education Committee

MINUTES

Monday 8 February 2016 – Committee Room – 6pm

Present

Member's Name

Lily Barnes
Eleanor Mullin
Claire Brodie
Marjan Magharehi
Joe Tantillo
Tim Stackhouse
Sarah Alexander
Kirsty Mearns
Ilaria Gidoro
Jesse Galapia
Eilidh Reid
Kit Klaes
Nic Wells
Megan Bruce
Mira Boneva
Louis Fearn
Raghav Mehra
Hussain Raja
Verity Baynton
Sally Allmark
Deborah Moffett
Louise McCaul
Imogen Hawley

Position

Art History School President
Arts & Divinity Faculty President
Chemistry School President
Classics School President
Director of Representation
Divinity School President
Earth & Environmental Science School President
Economics & Finance School President
Education and Representation Coordinator (Minutes)
ELT President
English School President
Film Studies & Music School President
Geography & SD School President
History School President
International Relations School President
Management School President
Mathematics & Statistics School President
Medicine School President
Modern Languages School President
Philosophy School President
Psychology & Neuroscience School President
Science & Medicine Faculty President
Social Anthropology School President

Absent

Maria Kustikova
Tomi Baikie
VACANT

Computer Science School President
Physics & Astronomy School President
Postgraduate Convenor

1. Apologies

Amelia Hunter

Biology School President

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes will be approved electronically.

4. Reports/Catch up

Every SP gave a short report. Upcoming events include: a Management and Economics ball, a SoML ball, a Biology and Psychology ball, a Geosciences ball, careers events, SSCCs, language grammar events, pub quizzes, events to promote NSS, a women-in-academia event, student-staff lunches, a presentations competition, football tournaments, and wine & cheese socials. Tim was planning a promotional video for the College.

Raghav said that they are hoping to have a longer reading weekend this year in Maths. Mira said that week 7 last year was the reading week, and they are trying to repeat it this year. She is also trying to advertise joint dissertations more, as there was only one student doing it this year. Imogen stated that her HoD rejected her request to have joint dissertations and she asked if this was allowed. Joe replied that it is technically allowed, but it is not ok.

Some SPs highlighted problems with engaging with their class reps. Music would elect their new class reps for this semester.

Verity created a welcome pack for new students. Deborah said that PG students want to have a Psychology professional skills curriculum.

The FPs are organising a drop-in event to advertise their roles and encouraged SPs to attend. They also elected class reps for the ID modules.

Joe attended a LTC meeting last week. He reminded SPs that they should include a “MEQ you said-we did” to their SSCCs’ agendas, so that students can see the improvements.

Action: All SPs to add “You said, we did – MEQs” to SSCC agendas.

Joe also moved this action point:

Action: All SPs to remind their DoTs that the list of commendations and recommendations from the annual report done by external examiners should be put to the SSCC, as discussed at the Learning and Teaching Committee last week—Paper C for reference.

Joe reminded all that NSS is running and asked them to advertise it.

Action: All to advertise NSS.

Teaching awards nominations open on Monday 15th. Joe encouraged all to advertise these and make nominations.

Action: All to advertise Teaching Awards when they open (Monday 15th February)

Elections are coming up. Joe asked all to make sure they have a successor. Nominations are in Week 6.

Action: All SPs and FPs to advertise their roles before the elections (which open on 29 February) and make sure they find at least a candidate.

5. Working group updates

5.1. Early Information

Louise made a draft document for this and will circulate it when finished.

5.2. Feedback

Sally said that they did not find anybody for this working group.

5.3. Supervision

The group needs to meet with Mira.

5.4. Diversity of Assessment

Eleanor said that last year she had a good meeting with a Social Anthropology lecturer, but then found difficulties moving this forward in EduCom. She has received a spreadsheet with information on diversity of assessment and a survey to get feedback. She will not continue this job in EduCom. She will write and circulate a paper and survey for honour students.

5.5. Joint Honours

Eleanor had a focus group last Wednesday with 12 people attending (there are still 3 empty spaces.) Kirsty and Mira said that they can find 3 people to attend the focus group. There will be another meeting in the future. Eleanor will collate the experience of these students into a paper.

Eleanor stated that some Schools have adequate information on joint honours in their handbooks (Psychology, Social Anthropology, Management, Geography, Philosophy, Physics, Economics); some Schools are OK but need more details (Modern Languages, History); some Schools are OK but need better formatting or corrections (Biology, History, Chemistry); some Schools do not have adequate information (Film, Divinity, Earth Sciences, Computer Sciences, Classics). She will email SPs with a sample of a good handbook and she will suggest that those schools that need improvement follow a model provided.

5.6. Advising

Two papers were supposed to be circulated in EduCom: one from Eilidh about name change (she will circulate it soon) and one from Raghav about improving the advising system. The SPs and FPs gave feedback on Raghav's paper. More feedback should be sent to him by email within 48 hours. Mira stressed that IR only has 2 advisors for honours (350+ students) and, if we want to improve advising, we need more advisors, especially as many students do not find the Careers' Centre useful enough.

Action: All SPs to send Raghav and Eilidh information on advising in their Schools.

6. MEQ Results

This item was withdrawn because Tomi was not present.

7. SPs video

Various ideas were discussed. It was stressed that it should be ready before the "Become an SP" event in Week 5. Kit and Imogen would make arrangements and find a time for filming.

8. Apparent discrepancies of entry grades for international students

Tim noted that American students reported that the entry grades they need are much lower than those for home/RUK students. Joe said he would do more research on this and asked SPs to do the same.

9. PG Business

10. Set agenda for SPF:

Set items:

- Advising
- Joint honours
- Joint dissertations.

11. AOCB

Lily noted that SPs often complain about the lack of class reps engagement and cooperation and suggested we give them recognition on their transcript to tackle this problem. Megan, Kirsty, Hussain and Ilaria are already working on this, and Lily will be invited to the first meeting. Joe proposed that SPs reduce the number of class reps next year, if they think that there are too many that are not really needed. Eleanor disagreed with this, as more class reps can do more.

Sally highlighted that sub honours lecture attendance is really low. Other SPs said what is done in their school and made suggestions. Imogen stated that attendance sheets work, but are not popular (with no consequences for not attending). Mira stated that, in her School, the fact that lecturers take questions/invite discussion in classes increased attendance, but this approach is not agreed with in all schools.

Louise, Eleanor and Ilaria to plan the next social event.

The meeting adjourned.

Next meetings:

School Presidents' Forum, Monday 15 February, 5.15 pm, Committee Room.

Education Committee Meeting, Monday 29 February, 6 pm, Committee Room.