



University of St Andrews Students' Association Education Committee

MINUTES

Monday 18 April 2016 – Committee Room – 6pm

Present

Member's Name

Lily Barnes
Eleanor Mullin
Claire Brodie
Marjan Magharehi
Joe Tantillo
Tim Stackhouse
Sarah Alexander
Ilaria Gidoro
Nic Wells
Megan Bruce
Louis Fearn
Hussain Raja
Verity Baynton
Sally Allmark
Tomi Baikie
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
Education and Representation Coordinator (Minutes)
Geography & SD School President
History School President
Management School President
Medicine School President
Modern Languages School President
Philosophy School President
Physics & Astronomy School President
Psychology & Neuroscience School President
Science & Medicine Faculty President
Social Anthropology School President

Absent

Amelia Hunter
Maria Kustikova
Kirsty Mearns
VACANT
Eilidh Reid
Mira Boneva
VACANT

Biology School President
Computer Science School President
Economics & Finance School President
ELT President
English School President
International Relations School President
Postgraduate Convenor

1. Apologies

Jack Carr
Kit Klaes
Raghav Mehra

Director of Representation-Elect
Film Studies & Music School President
Mathematics & Statistics School President

2. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

3. Approval of Minutes

Minutes would be approved electronically.

4. Reports/Catch up

Every SP gave a short report about what they had done recently and what was happening in their schools. Schools were advertising NSS. There had been some social events and events to enhance transition from sub-honours to honours. SPs were working on their handover documents. History had a 4th-year conference. Sarah was meeting relevant staff and representatives to encourage the school to subsidise fieldtrips more in the future. Tim was working on a promotional video for his school.

Marjan had issues collaborating with the school's society because they did not think that the role of SP involved organising social events. Joe stated that SPs can organise social events. Lily had had similar problems with the Art History society and journal. Joe encouraged SPs to remind societies that the SP is elected by the entire School.

The FPs run a class reps pub quiz. Eleanor was organising a meeting with the welfare reps and an end-of-year meal for EduCom. She asked Joe what the policy was on dealing with uncooperative class reps. Joe stated that they can be dismissed, although it was a bit late in the academic year to find a substitute. A SP said that her class reps had completely disappeared.

Imogen said she had an issue with MEQs as one of the modules was not showing up. The School secretary was trying to reconfigure it but with no success. Joe suggested Imogen contacted the Dean of Science.

Modern Languages was going to have a dissertation conference and a ball. Physics was also having a ball. Tomi had received back the results of the mid-semester surveys.

Joe was writing two reports for the Students' Association Board of Trustees, one on SPs and one on CRs.

5. Working group updates

5.1. Advising

This point will continue to be discussed next year by the future Education Committee.

Action: Ilaria to put this in the first agenda of the year.

5.2. Joint Honours

Eleanor said that her proposal for joint honours improvements did not go as she hoped and she will hand the project over to Sally. Sally stated that, perhaps, they could work in the summer on a JH handbook and propose it the next academic year.

A School President commented on the fact that nothing they proposed this year to the Deans and the Proctor really got accepted and, perhaps, they should convey their concerns, as they put a lot of time and effort in the role. She said that this attitude felt disheartening. This point was discussed further

and there was some disappointed in EduCom, even though they understood the value of giving feedback to the University, even if they did not achieve their proposals at this stage.

5.3. Other working groups (optional)

Sally was working on a document on feedback that Ilaria would put online.

Action: Sally to circulate this document when ready.

6. Welfare Reps (End-of-Year review and improving efficiency going forwards)

Jack asked EduCom for their opinions on the role of welfare rep. Eleanor said that she was going to have a meeting with the current welfare reps and she could pass feedback to Jack afterwards.

Action: Eleanor to send feedback on the role of Welfare rep to Jack.

7. Class Reps Recognition

EduCom discussed possible ways to award reps. It was proposed to award one person in each School. Tomi asked if they could start this award this year. There could also be an award for the best class reps overall. It was decided that, in the SoML, there would be one award per department. There would also be a ceremony to give the awards.

Action: All SPs to choose their best rep and send their details to Ilaria.

8. Seat Hogging

Eleanor explained that, at the last SLUG, they discussed the recently implemented parking ticket system to tackle seat hogging in the Library. The Library wanted to collect feedback from Library reps to understand if they thought the system was effective. They were also thinking of implementing tougher rules, including confiscating material and the introduction of a sanction (e.g. a short ban), as other Universities do.

Eleanor asked SPs to vote for their preferred method. Confiscation without sanction got 5 votes. Confiscation with sanction got 5 votes. No confiscation (current situation) got 6 votes.

It was said that students do not feel comfortable moving other students' belongings. Eleanor said that the Library was committed to finding a fair system. EduCom had different opinions. A SP said that she had never seen a parking ticket on a table. Perhaps, before changing the system, the Library should apply the system more often to ensure students understand that the system is in place.

Action: All to send relevant feedback to Eleanor.

9. Handover

Joe asked all to make sure they write their handover document and send it to both their successor and Ilaria.

Action: All to make and send their handover document.

10. NSS

NSS would close on April 30th. The response rate was better than last year, but some schools had not hit their target yet, including IR.

11. PG Business

- Printing for PGRs

Imogen informed that her School decided that PGR students have to start paying for printing, but she was aware that this was not the case in other Schools. Some SPs told Imogen what the situation was in their Schools. Joe asked all to find this out and email Imogen.

Action: All SPs to email Imogen with information on printing for PGRs.

- Tutor Pay

A SP asked whether their PG tutors were happy with the pay. Joe informed that there was a working group that was looking at tutor pay, working hours and training.

12. AOCB

Tomi said that, in his opinion, also the staff who had not been shortlisted for the Teaching Awards should be informed that they received nominations. EduCom voted on whether all nomination texts should be released to each nominee. 'Yes' won. Ilaria will send all nomination texts to Tomi and Lily, who will send them to each member of staff.

The meeting adjourned.

Last meeting of the Academic Year.