

**Education Committee**

**Thursday 6th February, 5:30pm**

**Students’ Association Committee Room**

**Agenda**

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
Maddie, Rhiannon (co-option for election committee), Sarah, Joel, Ellie, Morganne, Eva, Lara
3. Matters Arising
	1. Sustainability Representatives Briefing (Presentation from the Environment Team)

Presentation by Connie from the environment team. 30 school sustainability reps for 17 schools. Number of reps varied per school. Role of reps: organising sustainability survey for schools, to gauge what sustainability means to different year groups at the university, as well as what kind of changes students would like to see. Reps are keen to run events for their schools, or advertising events related to sustainability. The reps are there to work with you for sustainability related things.

Amy: This is not an addition to the SP role, but rather another outlet for helping with stuff relating to sustainability.

Cecilia’s email is: ced8@

* 1. Elections Committee and School President Elections (AB)

Amy: We need to co-opt 2 academic representatives (1 from SciMed, 1 from ArtDiv), to help with running the elections: discipline, technical stuff, helping at hustings.

Maddie and Rhiannon have been co-opted.

Amy: If people are speaking to you about the role of SP, you are welcome to talk about it to them. **You cannot endorse people as per election rules**. Following nominations, you have to host a hustings for the candidates by email or in person. Nominations close 6pm Friday week 5, at which point you have to contact the candidates and ask them to participate in physical hustings, or answer questions per email, and then circulate their answers to the student body. Flora (DoWell) is the election officer, and will come to EduCom next week to answer questions about election queries. Aside: Anyone running for DoEd/ArtDivFP /SciMedFP can come see Amy/Sophia/Dennis at any time!

* 1. Teaching and Infrastructure Funding (AB)

Amy: The teaching infrastructure fund is a fund anyone can apply to, for improving or creating teaching spaces to support the enhancement of the way people teach. The fund is mainly relevant to small projects that improve infrastructure for teaching (e.g. software for computers, microscopes, desks etc). Lots of money available in this fund (over 100k). Speak to your DoT about areas you think may be improved. The form is pretty simple to fill out.

* 1. Cafe Survey (NT – see Paper One)

Nathan: Cafe Survey got 800 responses (survey was sent out after the selection of cafe items went down, while prices went up). Due to the large volume of responses, there will be a meeting next Thursday with RBS(?) and the North Haugh cafe working group and whoever else wants to go. Contact Nathan for more info.

* 1. Careers Updates and Working Group (JH)

Joe: Meeting with Director of Careers centre, successfully setup SPAG, and the student advisory board for the career centre, to get a better idea of what students want. SAB have to do bureaucratic stuff before it can start. SPAG can start now, and recruiting will begin now until next week. Careers centre want people to write a few words about how they will contribute to SPAG (?). Meetings will be 3 art/3 science presidents and someone to chair meetings (?).

* 1. MEQ Timeline (DG)

Dennis: A lecturer brought up a concern regarding unconcious bias during exam marking, as a result of lecturers being required to read their MEQ feedback forms beforehand. Feedback can sway both extremely positive and extremely negative, which is why unconcious bias may play an important role. The idea would be to request any MEQ feedback deadlines for lecturers to be pushed back until after exams have been marked, or restructuring the way MEQs are delivered to students.

Angela: People are unhappy about MEQs being before exams, due to extenuating circumstances that may apply more during exams than during the semester.

Lauren: The role of strikes is particularly relevant as students affected by strikes may have additional feedback after an exam as well.

Nathan: majority of module grade comes from the exam, so MEQs before an exam may differ to if they were answered afterwards. An open deadline for the MEQ instead of a strict deadline may solve this issue.

Lot: The deadline is a stimulus to do the MEQ, so perhaps a separate survey after the exam would be the way to move forward?

Olle: some modules run both semesters, so implementing changes has to be quick, and therefore lecturers need to evaluate the MEQs as soon as possible so that the changes can be made in the next semester.

All agreed to bring the issue forward in SPF.

* 1. Faculty President Role Reminder (AB)

Dennis and Sophia are taking over EduCom. FPs are the first point of contact for SPs from now on. If they can’t answer it, they will forward it to Amy.

Office hours are 4:30-5:30 at Pret on Thursdays.

1. AOCB

Kyle: Strikes are happening soon – SSCC is scheduled on a strike day. Need to collect/process feeback ASAP. In general, the advice is that if you have a meeting planned on a strike day, reschedule it.

Amy: Strikes happening on the 20th of February. Circulate informative email about strike helpdesk.

Joe: Do strikes count as an extenuating circumstance? Open question. Amy will ask for more info from the proctor.

Joe: Academic calendar update?

Amy: Academic Council saw the final paper last semester, and the final proposal was to move first sem a week forward, second semester shifts forward a week. Spring break will decrease to one week. Maintains 11 weeks of teaching in semester 2. Only goes into effect in 2-3 years time, so the fact that they asked our opinion on this makes perfect sense…

Nathan: Have the exam regulations changed to no longer allow transparent water bottles? Tinted/coloured water bottles are transparent, but were confiscated. The Uni should change the regulations about it: change transparent to clear!

Seamus: Concern about resit/qualified entry fees. Students pass the exam with grade between 7-11 (need 11 average) and can not afford the resit fees/travel. Why are these fees in place and why haven’t they been abolished following the widening access effort across the uni? Will be brought up at SPF.

Amy: There’s a new postgrad academic convener!

Amy: NSS and teaching awards: advertising these things as much as possible. Schools need a certain response rate to get a ranking on the list (50%). Encourage final years to fill it out. Send out in weekly email. No info about how to fill it out, just encouragement to do it. Can also do prize draws for people filling out the NSS, can use the EDF to afford a prize or similar. Little competitions encouraged!

Nathan: whole uni prize draw? → Amy will suggest to the planning people.

Amy: Teaching/Proctor’s award: Teaching awards are open, you can nominate and please do! There are multiple categories. They are open until the 2nd of march. The Proctor’s award opens tomorrow (7.2.20). Amy will send updates tomorrow.

Meeting adjourned 18:30