



Education Committee

14th March 2019, 5pm

Students' Association Committee Room

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
 - a. Louise (German)
 - b. Kamilla (Maths)
 - c. Meredith (Art History)
 - d. Evan (Earth and Environmental Sciences)
 - e. Martynas (Computer Science)
 - f. Gianluca (Arts/Divinity Faculty President)
3. Questions for School Presidents
 - a. Rikke (Social Anthropology) - meeting careers reps this week. Met with DOT to discuss NSS.
 - b. Jemima (Graduate School) – had SSCC. Quite tense – everyone voicing personal complaints. Came to conclusions.
 - c. Rachel (Economics) – had SSCC and it went smoothly.
4. Questions for Faculty Presidents
5. Questions for PG Academic Convenor
6. Matters Arising
 - a. Class Rep awards
 - b. Handover
 - i. Touch base with new president.
 - ii. Send Jemima a general handover pack if you have one.
 - c. Blackwells
 - i. For languages, especially Russian – lots of texts not available online so handy to be able to buy them. Always have the texts.

- ii. Stationary shop inside the Union useful.
 - iii. Handy to have one stop shop for reading lists.
 - iv. Set up for freshers and refreshers especially helpful.
 - v. Staff nice and helpful.
 - vi. Comp Lit: exact translation and version available.
 - vii. Film Studies: good at having exact text you need.
 - viii. Reselling textbooks
 - ix. Philosophy: specific reasoning books. Only Blackwells has them in town.
 - x. Ambassador tours: good to point out.
 - xi. Email Alice more points if you think of them later.
- d. NSS
- i. Incentive raffles.
- e. Grade Conversion
- i. 17 grade equals 4.0 gpa? Lower parts of scale convert less well. 15.5 is good but won't be a good gpa to American Unis.
 - ii. In Physics there is direct conversion – between high 2:2 and low 1sts doesn't translate well.
 - iii. Want to be able to show you got a high 2:1 but looks similar to low 2:1.
 - iv. No right answer – different schools have different charts. 15 could be a B and a 16 an A on one chart, but other charts different.
 - v. Not clear how to calculate gpa – do you count all years? Transcript counts all years but gpa doesn't.
 - vi. Main University website chart different to school handbook and different to careers.
 - vii. If you didn't understand 20 point scale, the Uni conversion chart on main webpage doesn't make sense. 16.4 is a 3.6 but a 16 is a 3.7 – mean and median calculating not made clear.
 - viii. Penalises average students – low 2:1 is respectable, but a 13 would be a 3.0 but a 13.4 would be a 2.9. Unnecessarily confusing and unfair.
 - ix. Russian: issue with year abroad if it counts – coming back with highest you can get in Russia but that doesn't translate as a first at St Andrews. Hard to justify. Russia has a five point system with plusses and minuses – a 4+ is only a 16. A 4 could be anywhere from a 13-16.
 - x. A 75% is a C to American admissions. No coherent translation for these admissions officers.
 - xi. Some schools, such as Harvard, doesn't include gpa of St Andrews entrants in their averages.
 - xii. Why do we even have the 20 point scale? Causes so much problems.

- xiii. Economics, Physics, Graduate School all convert to percentages.
 - xiv. No opportunity on applications to explain the 20-point scale.
 - xv. Thresholds are different for other universities.
 - xvi. One comprehensive conversion scale needed. Not 100s.
 - xvii. Varies massively from school to school and from department to department.
 - xviii. PG exchange with Georgetown – a 96% and above is a 19 and a 20; between a 16.5-16.9 is a 70-75%. Would be a C.
 - xix. Alice to write a note for the Deans and report back.
- f. Feedback Loops
- i. Encouraging staff to acknowledge MEQs and also thinking of ideas for closing the loop that you can suggest to your DOT (website, module handbooks, etc.)
 - ii. Useful to send SSCC minutes around as well as putting them on website.

7. AOCB

- a. Technology during class tests/exams (Chloe – Russian)
 - i. Staff in Russian realised students don't use actual dictionary but use online translators and dictionaries.
 - ii. Potential for blocking sites on computer classrooms computers.
 - iii. Buts Wynd used for exams – must be a way of blocking sites?
 - iv. Physics looking at electronic based exams.
 - v. Alice to find direct IT desk email for Chloe. [Note – if you email [itservicedesk@](mailto:itservicedesk@st-andrews.ac.uk) they will direct you].
- b. University rolled out new toilet signs – accessible and gender neutral
 - i. Some toilets may have been changed to gender neutral to accessible toilet but can be changed back if you complain.
- c. Disability provision
 - i. Making exam papers more accessible
 - ii. Philosophy: looking into how to make lectures and exams more accessible.
 - iii. Most provisions have to be dealt with by student services on a case-by-case basis. Some things that can be done more generally.
 - iv. Emily Muller egm21@st-andrews.ac.uk the SRC member for disabilities.
 - v. IR: getting lecture notes uploaded 24 hours in advance.
 - vi. Physics: mid-semester surveys have equality and diversity section in core module questionnaires.
 - vii. Athena Swan incorporates.

Reports from School Presidents

Art History - Meredith Loper – arthistorypresident

- Held SSCC Meeting.
- Will schedule an additional meeting with the DoT, myself, Museum and Galleries Rep and the Museum and Gallery studies course coordinator to respond to negative feedback.
- Six other class reps and I received Equality, Diversity & Inclusion training on the request of the School.
- In the process of organizing a Transition to Honors lecture with the second year reps.
- Booked and finalized plans for a film screening of the short films of Astrid Etihad (current student and contemporary artist) in conjunction with the History of Photography Rep.

Biology - Roisin Gendall – biologypresident: no report submitted.

Chemistry - Ailsa Edward – chemistrypresident: no report submitted.

Classics - Rebecca Hachamovitch – classicspresident: no report submitted.

Computer Science - Martynas Noreika – compscipresident

Industry Engagement Program

- The first group has officially started working on their project
- We have finalised and signed all the legal documents
- Organised an induction session for all groups with Playfair
- Have been communicating with the second client to arrange a meeting. They would like to come to St Andrews
- The plan is to start the second project this week
- From that point, the team should operate autonomously and only contact us if any major problems are present

Mid-semester questionnaires

- Collated and filtered the results
- Distributed the feedback of each module to the lecturers and module coordinators
- Some of the issues raised have already been addressed by the staff

Prepared the schedule and reps for the SSCC meeting next week

Divinity - Rachel Miller – divinitypresident: no report submitted.

Earth & Environmental Sciences - Evan Margerum – earthscipresident: no report submitted.

Economics & Finance - Rachel Williams – economicspresident: no report submitted.

English - Jessica Armstrong – englishpresident

- Helped to organise our Careers in Academia event
- Finalised two speakers for Careers event with film
- Liaised with the President-elect, informing HoS and DoT
- Finalised agenda for SSCC (this week)
- Met with Lyndsay regarding the careers event

Film Studies - Lyndsay Townsend – filmpresident

11.03.19

- Have met with my 4th year Class Rep twice to discuss the best ways to promote the National Student Survey – we arranged to go into Honours classes, with chocolates and just explain more about the survey (what it's for, why it's important to fill out). We are starting this properly this week, as we wanted to wait until Elections had finished.
- Held meetings with Jess (English SP), and Miguel from the Careers Centre to organise a English/Film Alumni Panel – this is currently being organised by myself and Jess, and we are in the process of contacting alumni through resources at the Careers Centre, and LinkedIn.
- Continued our committee meetings for The 60 Hour Film Blitz, and have completed an array of tasks as head of the committee. The Blitz will officially come to an end on Friday March 15th and it has been an amazing, albeit stressful, opportunity to fulfil as School President.
- Held our second SSCC meeting as a Department, which was successful and exceedingly helpful for all involved.
- Met with Hilda McNae and Helen Faulds from the University Library to discuss Film Studies resources within the Library, and improvements to be made which would greatly benefit the students in our Department.

Geography & SD - Rhiannon Potts – geosdpresident

Week 5-6

- The first edition of the Irvine Atlas (St Andrews Undergraduate Journal of Geography and SD) was published. A launch party was held in the School which was well attended by students and staff. The IA Editorial Board are now putting out a call for submissions for Issue 1, Volume 2 to be published in the Summer of 2019.
- Attended the Education Committee.
- Attended the Students' Association Elections Mixer.

Week 6-7

- At present, the School has no student speakers for the SD talks at the upcoming Visiting Days. I have put out a request through e-mail and the class reps for Hons SD volunteers for these presentations.
- I attended a tea and coffee session and spoke at a Geography subject talk at the last Visiting Day. Despite the poor weather, it was wonderful to talk to prospective students and answer their questions.
- Very honoured to have been re-elected as SP of SGSD for the 2019/20 academic year.
- Two successful society events were held – Geoball 2019 on Friday 8 March and Sustainability Forum 2019 on Saturday 9 March.
- Will attend Teaching Committee meeting on Wednesday 13 March.

Graduate School - Jemima Williamson – gspres

- Our SSCC is on Tuesday this week (12th March 2019)

History - Sahil Ali – historypresident: no report submitted.

International Relations - Kat Lawlor – irpresident

- Regular Ambassador's Ball tickets go on sale Wednesday
- Creating focus groups for the Equality and Diversity Committee
- Signed contract with the Old Course
- Had PhD and Sub-honours SSCCs

Management - Philip Caraci – managementpresident: no report submitted.

Mathematics & Statistics - Kamilla Rekvenyi – mathspresident

- Organised final payments for Pie Ball, ready for the ball to happen this Thursday! we have 88 dinner guests.
- Had our first SSCC of the semester, went well

- Attended the School's Equality and Diversity Meeting
- Found a date and venue for the Equality and Diversity Forum to be held 10th April, 1-2pm

Medicine - Kay McGillivray – medicinepresident: no report submitted.

Modern Languages - Amy Bretherton – modlangpresident: no report submitted.

Russian

- We are all looking forward to the Modern Languages Ball (tickets go on sale this Monday evening).
- Recently, I discussed with staff the use of online dictionaries during in class tests - we are all in agreement that it would be a big step forward and something that the Department will have to deal with sooner rather than later. Would appreciate any advice on this from other School Presidents/Language Convenors! How do you use technology in a fair way during exams/class tests?
- Sarah Greenberg has been elected Russian Convenor for next year! Yay!
- The Department will be ordering Departmental jumpers soon!

French

- Met with French society to discuss involvement of future convenor and the department
- Modern Languages ball tickets on sale this Monday evening
- French department holding pub quiz Monday evening
- SSCC taking place this Wednesday
- Looking into organising final year practice oral sessions

Music - Aileen Walsh – musicpresident: no report submitted.

Philosophy - Sophia Rommel – philosophypresident

- Sent out weekly email today (Sunday, 10th)
- Happiness Wall quite full in time for the University's Mental Health Day - very happy! Keeping the Wall up for a while to keep facilitating an open, positive and supportive space in the Department
- One toilet in Edgecliffe is now finally gender neutral! 5 to go!
- Secured funding for the discussion panel on race and philosophy, to be held in May,

which myself, MAP and PhilSoc are creating. We were lucky enough to get, amongst our funding, some funding from MAP International itself!

- Attended MAP's biweekly lunch - forging stronger ties with MAP (which I am also a member of), specifically the MLitt and PhD students in the Department
- Promoting the Teaching Awards and Proctor's Award
- Ran for elections myself so could not conduct the School President elections, but I stayed impartial and later celebrated Kyle's win on social media (letting students know)
- PGR Rep is holding a meeting on Thursday regarding tutor pay issues. Have asked other School Presidents (Arts/Divinity) to encourage tutors in their Schools to please attend
- Updated Twitter everyday, as usual
- Still awaiting the confirmed Minutes from my DoT
- Will meet with class reps on March 15th; excited!

Physics & Astronomy - Amy Suddards – physicspresident

- Elections were fun, hustings went well - good turnout and lasted hours. Really good questions from everyone and good response from candidates (also so much wine... oh lord).
- Set up anonymous online form for comments/suggestions/issues as a google doc where the responses go straight to the school president. Advertised via email and via all social media.
- Mid semester surveys all filled out, processed by reps, and returned to staff. Reps and myself meeting with module coordinators over this week and last to discuss results. Some issues with very high hours in second year modules so have met with second year coordinator along with reps to address this.
- Equality and diversity questions in MSS brought up a few comments I am looking to address: this week meeting with disabilities officer to implement dyslexia and autism friendly tutorial and exam papers, as well as hopefully meeting with DoWell to discuss a campaign tackling alienation within physics. E&D staff rep for school is on board with this and I hope to bring both schemes to the next E&D meeting.
- Burns supper was a success with nearly 30 people (students and staff) attending, and a generally nice atmosphere.
- Meeting this week with new scimed president to discuss my time as panda president.
- Some interesting comments about reps came up during hustings - people can't see what they are doing and seem to not really know/appreciate how much work they (and I!) are putting in. Have emailed around a link to the SSC minutes so people can get a better

idea of what is going on.

Psychology & Neuroscience - Winnie Li – psychpresident

- Ran SP election
- Created posters of candidates answers to questions and posted them in the building
- Still organising transport for BPS UG conference
- Organising workshop
- Class rep meeting tonight (11th Monday) for organisation of events
- Careers Fayre

Social Anthropology - Rikke Nedergaard – socanthpresident

- Was part of the Elections Committee where I attended a whole bunch of meetings and took five shifts.
- Held with the fourth-year rep a highly successful peer guidance event on dissertations for third-years.
- Started planning a Social Anthropology Cake & Tea Afternoon with my class reps.
- In communication with second- and third-year rep about doing a peer guidance event targeted towards second-years on the writing-up process for their fieldwork project.
- Continued planning careers event "What Can You Do With an Anthropology Degree?" with my four careers reps. We started finding our own speakers since we haven't heard back from the careers centre for three weeks despite chasing them up. Then we heard that we were 8th in line and started researching on our own.
- Went around to all fourth-year classes to persuade them to fill out the NSS survey.
- Went to the two anthropology evening classes to gather feedback for the SSCC meeting since reps were respectively in New York or celebrating their anniversary. Also advertised to them the upcoming Cake & Tea event in person.
- Planned two pre-SSCC meeting with reps and DoTs (sub-honours and honours apart).
- Had meeting with class reps to evaluate feedback and to set agenda for the SSCC.
- Attended SAT meeting for Athena Swan.
- Met with a sub-SAT group for student data.
- Meeting with the Social Anthropology President-elect to touch ground on the hand-over process.
- Send out my weekly newsletter.
- Held my weekly office hour.

Reports from Faculty Presidents

Arts and Divinity - Gianluca Giammei – artdivfp: no report submitted.

Science and Medicine - Alisa Danilenko – scimedfp: no report submitted.

Report from Postgraduate Academic Convenor – Ashley Clayton – pgconven: no report submitted, verbal report to follow.