



Education Committee

15th of November 2018, 5pm

Students' Association Committee Room

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
 - a. Ailsa (Chemistry)
 - b. Lyndsay (Film)
 - c. Chloe (Russian)
3. Questions from School Presidents' reports
 - a. Rikke updated her report (see reports below).
4. Questions from Faculty Presidents' reports
5. Questions from PG Academic Convenor's report
 - a. PG Convenor absent.
6. Matters Arising
 - a. Nick, DoWell, on Wellbeing Days
 - i. Great engagement in terms of number of people and how they engaged
 - ii. Essentially, Nick wants to work with other schools and faculties to get this event to more schools
 - iii. Called let's talk events. Sometimes there is a theme, sometimes there is not. Had student speakers focusing on If there was any time when they struggled with something and how they overcame it. Very relaxed environment with food and no staff.
 - iv. Also different events throughout the day in Physics when they did it – Let's Talk in evening but also pizza with PGs at lunchtime and some 'top tips' for dealing with stress emailed to staff.
 - v. Can also group schools together and run a 'Let's Talk' event with a couple of schools together.

- vi. See Nick for more information on dowell@.
- b. Rebecca, Classics, on seminar etiquette
 - i. Non-respectful behaviour in seminars
 - ii. In philosophy, they have guidelines to how to carry out seminars. There used to be comments in philosophy that males would get credits for saying the same thing as the females who would not get credit for it.
 - iii. Similar problem in IR, men dominate tutorials
 - iv. Rebecca to liaise with Sophia (philosophy) and Kat (IR) on guidelines and potential seminar etiquette workshop.
- c. Martynas, Computer Science, on Lecture Capture survey
 - i. Reasons why lecturers do not record lecture – might be to do with specific policy, pedagogy, etc.
 - ii. IR do not record lectures due to sensitive material and discussion.
 - iii. However, some schools do not want to do it as they do not want the recording to be used against them legally.
 - iv. If you could distribute Martynas' survey, that would be appreciated
 - v. Worth speaking to students in schools as well, to see what they think about the issue.
- d. Closing the loop on feedback and MEQ analysis
 - i. Deans are keen on the idea of having the MEQ as a standing agenda point on SSCCs to look at the results of that and talk about what the schools is doing on the modules that are red (bad).
 - ii. Then report this back to the students to show them that their feedback is being acted upon.
 - iii. Different ways of making sure feedback is clearly being acted upon from MEQs – section in module handbooks stating what has changed because of last year's MEQs, tutors emailing students after the MEQs have closed to summarise, etc.
 - iv. There are also different ways of talking about different modules and 'rating' them with younger students: you and your class reps could make an informal feedback form with comments about how they found the modules for students to fill out (try to avoid anonymous free text as this can lead to mean comments victimising staff), mentoring schemes can be also used to some extent to talk about certain informal prerequisites (for example), some schools do a presentation where staff talk about their modules as well (Management).

7. AOCB

- a. Got Consent Workshop feedback survey

- b. Academic Alerts flyers
 - i. Distributed to Presidents to be visible in schools or distributed to students.
- c. Emergency SLUG
 - i. Friday 16th at 1:15pm in Arts Lecture Theatre.
- d. School Presidents' Forum on Monday 19th
 - i. No reports required.
 - ii. Agenda items discussed – decided on Turnitin, SSCC etiquette, quiet places in the University, and Module cancellations.

Reports from School Presidents

Art History - Meredith Loper – arthistorypresident

- SSCC last week went well.
- Class Rep meeting Monday to go over Feb. Careers Event and discuss SSCC further. This will be the final meeting of the semester.

Biology - Roisin Gendall – biologypresident

- Monday – held meeting with class reps
- Tuesday – held internship and CV event – poor attendance but actually very good speakers
- Thursday – meeting with Alice – SSCC, expansion packs to action
- Thursday – talked to careers link within school about involving the study abroad students who missed careers week last year in 3rd year events
- Thursday – another push for ssc date to be set
- Friday – Christmas party invites made!

Chemistry - Ailsa Edward – chemistrypresident

- Nothing to report.

Classics - Rebecca Hachamovitch – classicspresident

- Collaborative effort with Careers to put on "How to Sell Yourself as a Classicist" workshop this Wednesday (I didn't pick the title 😞)
- Ides Ball progresses slowly as Hotel du Vin is 3 weeks late in providing a contract
- Issue with "seminar etiquette" remains unresolved
- Standardised feedback collection forms now in circulation for the second SSCC of the semester next week
- Teaching Committee approved the introduction of a new PGR administrative position and confirmed the new rubric for written coursework

Computer Science - Martynas Noreika – compscipresident

- Not much happened since the last week.
- I met with the DoT and finished the Lecture Capture staff survey.

Divinity - Rachel Miller – divinitypresident

- I am meeting with Susan in St Mary's College Office to go over all things agenda and

minutes in preparation for the SSCC in a couple of weeks

- I have arranged a meeting with Dr Shively from Divinity and Shona from the Careers Centre to discuss putting on an event in Divinity during Careers Week

Earth & Environmental Sciences - Evan Margerum – earthscipresident

- EDF funding for an event on Wednesday
- Reorganized monthly meetings for MGeols
- Internship talk provisionally planned for the 19th
- Meeting with class reps to organize women in industry for February, may also work with biology who are planning a women in science event.
- Second SSCC provisionally planned for Dec 10th and TCM for Dec 12th
- Hoping to get a plan for module deferring due to key staff member changes
- Missed the ELIR meeting

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

English - Jessica Armstrong – englishpresident: no report submitted.

Film Studies - Lyndsay Townsend – filmpresident: no report submitted.

Geography & SD - Rhiannon Potts – geosdpresident

- 12 honours and 12 sub-honours students have agreed to take part in the focus groups for the University-led Review of Learning and Teaching.
- Both societies had successful events – Geog Soc elected a new Sub-Honours rep at their EGM and SD had an interesting talk by one of the founders and brewer of Jaw Brew about how they make their business sustainable.
- A “Diverse Careers” event has been planned for Wed 14 Nov to enable students to find out more and internships and careers.
- Lots of SGSD students have signed up to be Geography Ambassadors for the Royal Geographical Society and will be trained this week.

Graduate School - Jemima Williamson – gspres

- SSCC minutes confirmed
- Graduate School Christmas dinner – looking for a date that most people can do
- Name change to The Graduate School for Interdisciplinary Studies (from The Graduate School)

History - Sahil Ali – historypresident

- Weekly email was sent out as per usual, detailing important events and deadlines
- Received all class reps' google forms and email messages to be passed onto all School of History Students, which were designed to ask for feedback
- On Wednesday I met with a jazz band to discuss them playing for the School of History and Classics' Ides Ball, alongside my Social Officer
- On Wednesday I attended the School of History Teaching Committee run by the DoT

International Relations - Kat Lawlor – irpresident: no report submitted.

Management - Philip Caraci – managementpresident: no report submitted.

Mathematics & Statistics - Kamilla Rekvenyi – mathspresident

- Found live music for the event MT234 Research and Party, the Ukulelear Fusion band and possibly also the BELLS
- Sent email to DOES enquiring about speakers (hasn't got a reply yet)

Medicine - Kay McGillivray – medicinepresident: no report submitted.

Modern Languages - Amy Bretherton – modlangpresident

- Modern Languages President Report
 - met with DoT to update on semester progress
 - attended Comparative Literature SSCC
 - held and chaired first Events Committee meeting, began planning Modern Languages Ball, which will take place next semester
 - attended Education Committee
 - promoted 'How to Sell your Languages Degree: CV and Networking Skills' event, taking place this Friday
 - planned Modern Languages Christmas Social
- German Convener Report
 - attended staff departmental meeting
 - planned social event for Week 10
 - attended Events Committee

Music - Aileen Walsh – musicpresident

- Met with the Director of Teaching to discuss how this term has been going.
- Discussed concerns with student enrolment in music modules, agreed that it may be necessary to review this (and perhaps in conjunction with other schools)
- Trying to organise music shadowing sessions for high school students, where no student ambassadors are music students
- Preparations for academic monitoring meeting next week

Philosophy - Sophia Rommel – philosophypresident

- Had second departmental TLA; super successful on three fronts: analyses are underway on data which shows that staff have massively unequal workloads and so we are thinking of ways about how to combat this/bringing it to the School's attention (I think my DOT will mention it at a School-wide meeting), we are not capping Honours modules (instead, we are looking for staff-oriented ways to accommodate students in larger modules' needs – i.e. it's a bit of a guessing game for each Semester, but we can potentially task two staff with one module that's (assumed to be) larger, or create more tutorial groups as that seemed to be a big issue in student feedback), sub-Honours exam reform (not sure how much the Department actually wants me to share on this as it's very much still in the conceptual/planning stages, but my DOT is setting up a Working Group on this (which I will also attend) and we are hoping to perhaps change final exams' structures (to reflect the intention of these exams)/make what staff want from students in these exams clearer/more explicit – exciting things may be happening!).
- My PGR Rep and I are continuously pushing for gender neutral toilets in Edgecliffe. Can't believe that there is actual resistance toward this idea, but I suppose different people hold different views...
- In touch with CEPPA and the organizers of their spring Graduate Conference, to hopefully create a Department-wide, student-oriented (all levels) careers event/academia panel/speaker series or week in February. Will have a meeting with Quan (hopefully) soon.
- Meeting Class Reps in Week 11 for our final meeting of the year – everyone seems happy and individual issues they have raised are being noted and discussed by myself and the relevant staff members.
- Meeting my DOT on the 20th of November to discuss said Class Rep-raised issues, as well as a potential online advice forum/question and answer portal (with some restrictions so this doesn't turn into a 'Rate my Lecturer' kind of thing/enable offensive comments to be made or modules to be explicitly avoided, etc.) for sub-Honours

students to use when considering Honours modules choices (an idea proposed by one of my Reps who is happy to take on this project with some friends, if approved).

- Met with the first year who is helping me with the data analysis/survey feedback collection for the Buddy Scheme. Overall, we received quite good feedback for the Scheme itself (and I will add comments for improvement to the doc I have for next year's President, which they'll hopefully use if they continue the Scheme), but some comments were made about inclusivity in the philosophy community as a whole which I will raise with my DOT. Creating an inclusive environment is one of the Department's and my foci, and so much hard work has been put into this over the years, so the first year and I both wonder how much more the Department can do vs how proactive the students who are complaining/concerned actually are in the Department/in their modules (which may seem rather harsh at first, but it is quite a realistic observation to at least consider, too).
- Issues with MLitt Logic have been addressed and the lecturer has talked to the class – all seems resolved. My MLitt and Mature Student Rep had a productive meeting with the MLitt coordinator about this, too, and it makes me happy that they are so involved!
- MLitt Rep is working on some E&D initiatives aimed at students from a low income-background and their prospects of attending higher education institutions, such as St Andrews. Will find out more at my next meeting with him!
- MAP hosted a drop-in lunch for students (of all levels) this week – I wasn't involved in this, but wish I could have gone and did the necessary Tweeting and promoting for them. I love their initiative and want to support it the best that I can!
- Have confirmed with Dr. Scharp that the Arche will be having speakers up in the Spring time, probably focused on Conceptual Engineering topics.
- On a personal note, I have so many hours that I haven't logged because I haven't had the time to do so yet. So, I should probably get on that.

Physics & Astronomy - Amy Suddards – physicspresident: no report submitted.

Psychology & Neuroscience - Winnie Li – psychpresident

- Meeting with EDI committee members and student Equality & Wellbeing rep, discussed School and University wide issues + potential solutions
- Still organising School Quiz.
- Attended School Council, asked what I can do when people raise issues with me about their supervisors. Staff said unfortunately students and reps don't raise supervisor issues until the end of year/term surveys such as NSS/MEQ and unless we tell them, they won't know which supervisor students are talking about. Will make sure this will be dealt with

this year, hope future school presidents will do this as well.

- Held BPS student networking event, I think it was successful

Social Anthropology - Rikke Nedergaard – socanthpresident

- Led undergraduate SSCC meeting
- Attended academic monitoring dialogue meeting
- Handled essay source issue for commuting students
- Corresponded with honours evening rep re. feedback
- Held weekly office hour

Reports from Faculty Presidents

Arts and Divinity - Gianluca Giammei – artdivfp

- Alisa and I have chaired the SSCC for ID and we have discussed different problems such as the handbook used and the communication between the different schools.

Science and Medicine - Alisa Danilenko – scimedfp

- Gianluca and I are currently starting work on the ELIR. I have agreed to work on two headings, "Recognising and responding to equality and diversity in the student population, including widening access and mode and location of study" and "Postgraduate taught and research student experience".
- Other than that, not much to report.

Report from Postgraduate Academic Convenor – Ashley Clayton – pgconven

- I will be chairing the first PGT Executive Forums on Wednesday, where we will be discussing orientation, PG Community, St Leonard's college matters and other related PGT matters.
- I may be present at the PG open day on Wednesday alongside members of the PG society.
- I will be attending Learning and Teaching committee on Wednesday.
- I will be attending a preliminary ELIR writing group meeting on Wednesday.
- I will be at the PG Society meeting on Wednesday evening.
- I also hope to book the PGR Executive Forums for mid December this week.

