



## Minutes from Education Committee

12th of March 2018, 5:30pm

Students' Association Committee Room

### Present

#### Member

Zachary Davis  
John Weaver  
Fanny Empacher  
Lily Ratcliff  
Erin Phillips  
Gergely Flamich  
Cameron Smith  
Charlotte Gordon  
Alison Quinn  
Ellen White  
Gaby Levey  
Abi Whitefield  
Alice Foulis  
Sarah Gharib  
Andrew Mitchell  
Caitlin Macdonald  
Antonia Zimmermann  
Alisa Danilenko  
Gianluca Giammei  
Rikke Nedergaard

#### Position

Director of Education  
Science & Medicine FP  
Postgraduate Academic Convener  
Art History SP  
Biology SP  
Computer Science SP  
Divinity SP  
Earth Sciences & Geology SP  
Economics & Finance SP  
English SP  
Film Studies & Music SP  
Geography & SD SP  
History SP  
IR SP  
Mathematics & Statistics SP  
Modern Languages SP  
Philosophy SP  
Physics & Astronomy SP  
Psychology & Neuroscience SP  
Social Anthropology SP

## 1 Apologies

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>
Nicola Simonetti	Arts & Divinity FP
Jacob Pepper	Chemistry SP
Julian Frink	Classics SP
Philip Caraci	Management SP
Carissa Jacobs	Medicine SP

## 2 Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes from the previous Education Committee were approved by the members. They were no action points to follow up on.

## 3 Questions for Faculty Presidents

No questions were raised by the committee members.

## 4 Questions for PG Academic Convenor

No questions were raised by the committee members.

## 5 Questions for School Presidents

No questions were raised by the committee members.

## 6 Enhancement Theme

The Director of Education asked the School Presidents on how to best engage students in the new Enhancement Theme, Evidence for Enhancement: Improving the Student Experience. The members discussed the following points:

- More publicity could be generated to inform the student body about the Enhancement Themes. This could be disseminated through the Director of Education and School Presidents. Additionally revamping the website pages so students can get key information.
- Focusing particularly on the current theme. Members reported that it's quite dry and that they don't necessarily understand what it entails. Explaining what data is, what we consider to be evidence, and how it can be used in a project, would help students get involved.
- Members asked if a project needs to be based on existing data, or if funding can be used to collect data for future work. A possible FAQs section could be useful.
- It was thought that calls for funding will play a big part in engaging students in the Enhancement Theme work. Even in staff driven projects, some preliminary consultation, where appropriate, with students would be very welcome.
- The idea of involving students as interns was received very positively.

- Academic Reps are already involved in projects which use data and evidence. It could be valuable to show them how these would fit into the current theme and it could be a possible area to take up some cross School projects/initiatives (e.g. Athena SWAN, PG Experience)
- Members thought it would be beneficial to brand projects which received funding from the Enhancement Theme, to give them a better idea of what type of projects exist and have received funding, and to also increase general awareness of the scheme.

## 7 SP Training

The Director of Education informed the School Presidents that CAPOD and himself were starting to plan the next round of School President training, and asked for their feedback. Members discussed the following:

- The April training was poorly organised, and students should be informed well in advance of the event, and what it would focus on.
- Some School Presidents had not received a handover before the training, which would have proved valuable.
- A standardised handover document/handbook would be useful, and School President could build on this to address School specific elements.
- The April training was valuable in acting as a mixer for the new School Presidents to meet one another.
- Support for orientation events, on how to book rooms, order catering and key contacts would be useful to get before summer.
- A focus on idea planning and goal setting in the April training.

## 8 Staff Strikes

The Director of Education reminded members that the Proctor would be meeting them at 5pm on Tuesday to discuss developments on the current strike action. The Director of Education asked the School Presidents if they had any key questions which he could pass on prior to the meeting. Members enquired about the following points:

- Is there the threat of further strike action around the exam period, and if so how will this affect examinations?
- Why are strikes continuing despite the University entering negotiations?
- How will missed content, which is required for a degree accreditation, be handled?
- Where content has been missed in a module which is a prerequisite for future modules?
- Issues arising where extensions bring coursework deadlines into the exam period.
- There was a lot of anxiety over dissertation modules (particularly ones containing lab elements which students are missing out on).

## **9 AOCB**

The School President of IR raised the issue of sexual discrimination, and asked members how to engage students in this topic. Members suggested that students who responded to surveys for the Schools Athena SWAN submission on this issue would be forthcoming to focus groups or could submit anonymous information to the School President.

The School President of IR asked members if they were having issues with Turnitin. The Director of Education suggested any student who has problems with this should report them to the IT Service Desk on itservicedesk@.

**The meeting adjourned.**

**The next meeting will be on the 2nd of April 2018 at 5:30pm in the Students Association Committee Room.**