



**Minutes of Education Committee  
25<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, 5pm  
Students' Association Committee Room**

**Present**

**Member**

Zach Davis

Nicola Simonetti

John Weaver

Lily Ratcliff

Erin Phillips

Julian Frink

Gergely Flamich

Cameron Smith

Charlotte Gordon

Alison Quinn

Ellen White

Gaby Levey

Abi Whitefield

Alice Foulis

Sarah Gharib

Andrew Mitchell

Carissa Jacobs

Caitlin MacDonald

Antonia Zimmermann

Alisa Danilenko

Gianluca Giammei

Rikke Nedergaard

**Position**

Director of Education

Art & Divinity FP

Science & Medicine FP

Art History SP

Biology SP

Classics SP

Computer Science SP

Divinity SP

Earth Sciences & Geology SP

Economics & Finance SP

English SP

Film Studies SP

Geography & SD SP

History SP

IR SP

Mathematics & Statistics SP

Medicine SP

Modern Languages SP

Philosophy SP

Physics & Astronomy SP

Psychology & Neuroscience SP

Social Anthropology SP

**Absent**

None

## 1. Welcome

Zach welcomed everyone to the first Education Committee for the academic year 2017/18. The decision to move Education Committee to 5:30pm on Mondays was made to accommodate more members.

## 2. Apologies

Member	Position
Jacob Pepper	Chemistry SP
Philip Caraci	Management SP
Fanny Empacher	PG Academic Convener

## 3. Reports from the School Presidents

**Modern Languages** – Welcome event in Freshers' Week. Tea/coffee morning well attended. Convenors working with her for a first career event to be released in Week 3 (internship students coming to talk about their experience). Two more careers events to be held in semester 1 (one for PG students).

**Economics** – In Freshers' Week wine & cheese event for honours, pizza lunch for sub-honours, both well attended. Working on organising events for the rest of the semester. Meeting with the Careers Centre representative for a mentorship scheme.

**Mathematics & Statistics** – Orientation Week coincided with Maths Week Scotland. Freshers' coffee and Cakes for went reasonably well. Public lecture was held last Friday. Working on Undergraduate Research Conference. Trying to put on a new Careers event. Working on monthly coffee and cake event for lecturers and students.

**Computer Science** – Computer Science PG ball organised. Orientation week was okay. Sub-Honours, Honours and Master welcome events. Mentorship scheme still being carried on from last year. Last year there were only 20 mentees, this year there are 85. Working on the set-up of a Research Fair.

**Medicine** – Tried to organise coffee/cake event in Freshers' week but there was little attendance. On Friday, evening with all students writing dissertation and supervisors for a chat. Put out surveys for all years.

**English** – Freshers' Week held two very successful events: 1) drop-in session; 2) book-themed cake event which was very well attended. External booking system: rooms are booked by other schools in quite big blocks. Managed to fill all Class Rep positions. Feedback on running dissertations in semester 1. Looking to put on a collaborative careers event with Art History and Classics.

**Earth & Environmental Sciences** – Wine & cheese event at end of Freshers' Week and barbecue. Speaker coming in on Thursday. Looking to promote UG who acquired funding for fieldwork for dissertations.

**Classics** – Successful season of Freshers' Week. Collaborative activities: change of 1 visiting day to acceptance student day at the end of the year (11th or 18th April). Opening up of a lot of space for students during revision and wants a central place to publicise this. Career events already based.

**Art History** – Tomorrow's first career talk and another one to be held in October. Working on dissertations. Academic Monitoring Dialogue meeting on Thursday. Looking into a mentoring system with the Art History Society.

**History** – Garden party in Freshers' Week and intro talk for School of History based on departments (Ancient, Medieval, Modern). Set-up of an undergraduate mentoring scheme over the summer (over 200 people signed up), looking to set up a PG version. Teaching Committee to meet on Wednesday to talk about internships among other things. Event with TeachFirst still to be organised in detail.

**Biology** – Went along to Freshers' Week introduction talks. Cocktails and colouring in event with themed drinks. Internships event for students to talk about projects. Careers event organised by the school in 2nd semester. Regular public lectures for Biology in collaboration with Biology Society.

**Social Anthropology** – Student speakers, in collaboration with Anthropology Society. Mentorship scheme and successful mentee mentor meeting event. 10 top tips for Anthropology essays to be sent out in Week 3. Next week the School President is going to talk to evening degree class. Information video about the Burn to promote what the trip is about.

**IR** – Honours and PG reception well attended. Head of School interested in improving students staff interactions and continuing student staff lunches. Looking to set up dissertation peer support.

**Philosophy** – Welcome events of UG and PGs in collaboration with Philosophy Society. Implementing a you said we did online alongside DoT. Holding a Week 4 SSCC to input into AMG.

Small careers event in week 5 focusing on alternatives to academic work. Summer research event in collaboration with Philosophy Society, and a woman in Philosophy event.

**Geography & SD** – Produced a Freshers’ booklet, including information about important people and Class Reps. Student Staff lunches occurring again however less often and at cheap places. Mentoring scheme continuing. Staff and Freshers’ wine and cheese event. Picnic and beach walk. Working with the Head of Department for 4<sup>th</sup> years looking to do PhDs. Working on mental health and providing a clear pathway for students to get in touch with the School. Christmas party organisation has begun.

**Physics & Astronomy** – Produced a Freshers’ booklet. Orientation breakfasts. Freshers’ quiz icebreaker event followed by research lab tours. BBQ with rocket launch event. Welcome event for JH students to encourage cohort mixing which involved physics problems with wine. Comments box has been put in place in the Physics building. UG and PG poster event to allow UG to know what research is going on in the School.

**Divinity** – St Marys Society is very active within Divinity, and events best work through them. Careers advisor to publicise open office hours.

**Film Studies & Music** – All positions filled for Class Reps. Honours meeting in Week 3 for JH students to understand to transitions and expectations with SH students giving information. New careers rep who is also new to the University, looking to work closely with School President. Internship panel consisting of six students focusing on practical film making. Applications for annual 60 hours film blitz opening soon. Looking to revamp the system with possible Students’ Association affiliation and community engagement to increase reach.

#### **4. Reports from the Faculty Presidents**

Regularly meeting with Zach. Met with the MMS team prior to Class Rep elections to gain an understanding of the process. Nicola has organised informal meeting with Arts School Presidents to set a few goals for semester 1.

#### **5. Report from the PG Academic Convener**

The PG Academic Convener was not present at the meeting.

## 6. Matters Arising

### a. Collaboration Statement

Zach highlighted the updated collaboration statement to committee members. The two new areas of focus for collaboration in the academic year 2017/18 are technology enhanced learning and the postgraduate experience. Zach asked School Presidents to keep these topics in mind throughout the year. Examples of good TEL practise should be fed back to Education Committee. The Committee discussed lecture capture and methods to encourage members of staff to opt in. School Presidents are encouraged to put on PG specific events, and ensure their involvement at other School events.

### b. Academic Monitoring Dialogues

Zach briefed the School Presidents on what to expect at the Academic Monitoring Dialogues. The Schools involved this year are: Physics & Astronomy, Computer Science, English, Medicine, Biology, Art History, ELT, and IR.

### c. Nightline Promotion

Zach informed the School Presidents of Nightlines 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary and of their awareness campaign, looking to put a single slide in the start of lectures to promote the service following success at other institutions.

<b>ACTION – SPs:</b> School Presidents to get in touch with their Director of Teaching to gauge interest in the Nightline promotion.
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### d. School Presidents Goals

Given time constraints this item was moved to the next meeting's agenda, with School Presidents providing information beforehand.

<b>ACTION – SPs:</b> School Presidents to email the Director of Education 2 to 5 key goals that they want to achieve thought the year. These should be sent before next Education Committee.
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## **7. AOCB**

Zach asked the committee members to note the dates set for the School Presidents' Forum (SPF). Zach also enquired about Freshers' booklets/ information pack that School Presidents have been involved with.

**ACTION – SPs:** School Presidents to inform the Director of Education if they are unable to make any of the SPF dates.

**ACTION – SPs:** School Presidents who had Freshers' booklets/ information pack to email them on to the Director of Education.

**The meeting adjourned.**

**Next Education Committee meeting is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2017 at 5:30pm in the Students' Association Committee Room.**