



University of St Andrews Students' Association

SEMESTER REPORT

MARTYNMAS 2018

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September

Gianluca and Alisa met at the start of the academic year to review our goals and expectations for the new semester. We agreed that our main aim was to support the School Presidents in their roles, as well as contributing an academic viewpoint to various Councils and Boards. We also felt that it was particularly important to work with the School Presidents on events and initiatives relating to student wellbeing, and careers opportunities.

During Orientation week, Alisa along with Alice attended a walkthrough of the online elections portal. This was very useful, as it allowed us to effectively assist the School Presidents in getting to grips with it.

As acting 'School Presidents' of the ID modules, we also set about advertising rep positions for the ID4000 modules. Elections for these were conducted via email, with reps elected for each separate science subject, and one rep elected to represent the arts. This was in accordance with the wishes of the respective module coordinators.

October

Class rep elections were well handled by the School Presidents, who dealt well with the slightly disappointing nominations turnout. The deadline for nominations was extended (as in previous years), and eventually most positions were filled.

Alisa met with the Dean of Science to chat about her role and had a very useful conversation about the new Academic Alerts policy, and how better to communicate its need and implications to students.

We decided that it would be better for a social to be held for all School Presidents, rather than separating into sciences and arts as was done last year. This was organised by Alice (DoEd).

November

We held a meeting with the ID4000 reps in preparation for their SSCC, so that an efficient agenda could be prepared with relevant discussion points. The SSCC went ahead and was relatively well attended, with all points of discussion covered in good time. A major point of discussion was the optimisation of communication between students, schools and the University. It was very interesting to learn about the workings of these very unusual and interesting modules, from interaction with some excellent reps, helpful staff and well written handbooks!

Alisa worked with Nick (DoWell) and the School President of Physics (Amy), as well as some Physics faculty members, to run a Wellbeing Day in the School of Physics and Astronomy. This has been in the works since last year. The day consisted of a pizza lunch and discussion for postgraduate students, and a 'let's talk' style afternoon wine and cheese for undergraduates. This was very well attended and seemed to be put to good use. We are hoping to be able to use this successful event as a model for similar ones in other schools, with the support of the DoWell and us as the Faculty Presidents. The School Presidents are all very receptive to this idea, making us hopeful of making some real headway on our wellbeing related goals this year.

We both joined various teams on the ELIR project. Gianluca attended meetings organised by the Associate Dean of Arts with other staff members and students to help with writing up parts of the ELIR.

Academic Councils

We have attended the meetings, representing the entire student population within the highest academic body of the University. No further details can be provided due to the sensitive nature of these meetings.

Future plans

Our main goal for the coming semester is the continued support of the School Presidents in their roles, especially as pressure mounts towards the end of the year and their roles become more difficult to manage. We also aim to promote the mentoring scheme in more schools to allow first year students to feel welcomed as soon as they arrive in St. Andrews and to foster a greater sense of community among our students.

We also aim to help publicise the National Student Survey to final year students, as this is an important indicator for the continuing success of the University in attracting top applicants.

A large portion of the semester will be taken up by the preparations, advertisement, and running of the elections. We will be assisting with this both via the Elections Committee and through our continued work with the School Presidents and with the students in our respective constituencies.

On the Science side of things, Alisa is hoping to host a University wide popular science event: an evening with Ig Nobel prize winners and Marc Abrahams, the founder of the Ig Nobel prize. This is currently in its organisation phases, and the hope is to get the Science school presidents involved in the advertisement and possibly the running of the event closer to the time.

On the Arts side of things, Gianluca has been meeting with the Career Centre to try to set up a Career fair specifically designed for Arts and Divinity Students. Moreover, we have been trying to organise a virtual postgraduate fair to allow students to hear more information about postgraduate opportunities while still being on campus.