

School of Psychology and Neuroscience presidential report- Semester 1

[Table of contents](#)

1. Introduction for staff and students
2. Elections
3. Class Representative composition
4. Mentoring scheme
5. Welcome pack
6. SSCC
7. Teaching and Equality Diversity Committee
8. Previous-internship: sharing your experience
9. Internship speed-dating
10. Research platform
11. Main projects for S2
12. Regards

1. Introduction for staff and students

This report aims to summarise the actions taken during the first semester by the School President and Class Representatives of the school of psychology and neuroscience and to highlight what has been planned for the second semester.

Best wishes,

Gianluca Giammei

School President of Psychology and Neuroscience 2017/18

psychpresident@st-andrews.ac.uk

2. Elections

This year elections were held in week 1. Voting closed in week 2. All positions were filled. Advertising the positions by sending emails and before first-year classes seemed to have worked well. There was a high enthusiasm from sub-honours with many candidates.

3. Class Representative composition

This year, there were a total of 17 Class Reps elected: 14 undergraduates, two postgraduates and one evening-degree. In previous years, there were 16 representatives as there was one sub-honour neuroscience representative. To ensure that Neuroscience students had representation in both first and second year, I removed the sub-honour neuroscience and added a first-year and a second-year neuroscience representative. This seems to be something that neuroscience students have appreciated.

Moreover, there were only 4 reps with additional duties: library, employability, social and minutes. I added a fifth one: social media and advertising. This has been helpful to promote events within the school.

4. Mentoring scheme

The School did not have a mentoring scheme previously and, as I wanted incoming first-years to feel somehow guided, I started it with the help of CAPOD and Paul Gardner.

Before the end of semester 2 (2017), I recruited mentors. During last summer, I matched mentors and mentees. We currently have about 200 members and I have received positive feedback about it. I organized a meeting between mentors and mentees in orientation week.

I plan on continuing this scheme and improving it by pairing members up following more specific criteria.

5. Welcome Pack

I created a Welcome Pack in which incoming first-years had a map of the town, a letter from the School President, a letter from the Head of School and a series of quotes from current students. This was done with the precious help of Paula Miles.

6. SSCC

During the first semester, I chaired two SSCC meetings in which feedback gathered from students by the class representatives was discussed with staff members. Both meetings were fast and staff members were understanding and helpful. Class representative gathered feedback on time and were able to represent their class really well.

7. Teaching and Equality & Diversity Committee

As School President, I was invited to attend a Teaching Committee meeting in which staff members spoke about the academic matters and I had the chance to give my opinion. Moreover, I attended to Equality & Diversity Committee meeting in which I promised to increase awareness of the existence of the committee and student involvement in its working.

8. Previous-internship: sharing your experience

With the help of the Career Centre, the Career Link of the School and the employability, I organized an event in which students were able to talk about their summer internships to give their classmates information about what the internship was and how they obtained it. Tips and advice were also given.

9. Internship speed-dating

With the help of the Career Centre, the Career Link of the School and the employability reps, I organized an internship speed-dating events in which staff members spoke about their research and gave students the opportunity to apply to do funded research in their laboratories. The event was well-received by students with about 50 students attending.

10. Research Platform

The most time-consuming idea I am working on is probably the research platform. I want to create a platform in which staff members can post volunteer opportunities so that students can have work experience in laboratory environments. I have met with the Career center, the IT service of the School, the DoR, the Career and Link and the DoT who have all been extremely helpful. I hope to have this in place as soon as possible as it will benefit many students.

11. Main projects for S2

- a) Transition event: an event in which each year (one student and one staff) speaks to the year below (third year students speak to second years....) explaining what to expect from next year
- b) Career Fayre: St. Andrews Alumni working in different fields coming to give a talk about how they got where they are and how it is like working at their specific job.
- c) Clinical Psychologist talk: A clinical psychologist will come to give a talk to students about one of the most popular jobs that psychology majors end up doing
- d) Finalizing the Research Platform and making it available for students to use
- e) Organize more well-being events including tea and cake relaxation and guide dogs
- f) Promote the MAZE magazine and help the two Societies

12. Regards

I promise to support students as much as I can to ensure that *every one of them* feels represented by me and have the chance to have the best semester possible. I want to thank the amazing class representatives I have the chance to work with this year for their hard work. I want to thank the department and the staff members for their support.