



# University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

## AGENDA

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 Large Rehearsal Room - 6.00pm

### **1. Adoption of the Agenda**

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

### **3. Open Forum**

### **4. Reports of Sabbatical Officers**

- 4.1. Report of the Association Director of Education
- 4.2. Report of the Association Director of Wellbeing
- 4.3. Report of the Athletic Union President
- 4.4. Report of the Association President
- 4.5. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services
- 4.6. Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities

### **5. Questions for Association Officers**

- 5.1. Questions for Association Alumni Officer
- 5.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Officer
- 5.3. Questions for Association Environment Officer
- 5.4. Questions for Association LGBT+ Officer
- 5.5. Questions for Association Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer

### **6. Questions for SRC Committees and Officers**

- 6.1. Questions for SRC Accommodation Officer
- 6.2. Questions for SRC Member for First Years
- 6.3. Questions for SRC Member for Gender Equality
- 6.4. Questions for SRC Member for Racial Equality
- 6.5. Questions for SRC Member for Students with Disabilities
- 6.6. Questions for SRC Member for Student Health
- 6.7. Questions for SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation
- 6.8. Questions for SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President
- 6.9. Questions for SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President
- 6.10. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener
- 6.11. Questions for SRC Postgraduate Development Convener
- 6.12. Questions for Principal Ambassador
- 6.13. Questions for Rector's Assessor
- 6.14. Questions for SRC Member Without Portfolio

### **7. Unfinished SRC Business**

### **8. New SRC Business**

**9. Any Other Competent Business**

**10. Collaborative Solutions**

## Association Officer Reports

### **Alumni Officer – Olivia Wiggins**

*What have I done since my last report?*

Since my last report my committee have started organising events for semester 2. We are planning on inviting alumni from a range of fields and perspectives to come and discuss the climate crisis. I have also started planning a resource for societies and subcommittees about keeping track of their members and alumni. I have been in touch with Shaina and we will be meeting with Development to discuss structure and GDPR.

*What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)*

Working on the creation of more structured record keeping systems addresses my intention to maintain meaningful contact between alumni and the university – graduates will be able to keep in touch with the aspects of the university that they were most heavily involved with.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

Hopefully, I will have been able to share up to date information about record keeping with societies.

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)*

Keeping track of Alumni makes it much easier for societies to invite speakers back. Also, a speaker event about a topical an issue as climate change should both interest a large proportion of the student body and illuminate some career paths.

### **Community Relations Officer – Morgan Morris**

*"What have I done since my last report?"*

Since my last report, we have continued plans for Community Relations week (week 11), and plans to publicize student groups who go out into the community on our facebook page. I will be calling a meeting of POLIS (the political society forum) with regards to looking at voter registration and how we can register more students to vote. Myself along with some other students attended the Hamish Foundation Gin making event to share ideas and how we can collaborate more. We have Community Council in a weeks time so if anybody had any thoughts please let me know, and I can bring them up.

*What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)*

The above was all in my manifesto, and there are a few points that will come in later this semester.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

By my next report, we should hopefully have some confirmed plans for Community Relations Week, and we hope to elect a freshers and postgraduate representative to my committee.

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?"*

This matters because it allows students to feel more integrated in the town and shows them there are things they can get involved with outside gown side of there time in St Andrews.

As always any ideas, thoughts, questions please get in touch: [comrels@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:comrels@st-andrews.ac.uk).

### **Environment Officer – Lauren Davis**

Nothing big to report this week. The Environment Subcommittee is working to tie the loose ends as Green Week creeps up (Week 4!!). Please like and share all content, and please invite your friends to events; we would very much appreciate any/all publicity. On a different note, Climate Action St Andrews have a few goals and ideas that we aim to see through to make big university-wide changes this year. Finally, a massively important travel survey is being released on 7<sup>th</sup> October and it is essential we push people to sign it. This survey will contribute to how the University measures its carbon emissions and will be used to help with our new Carbon Management Plan.

### **LGBT+ Officer – Parker Hansen**

*"What have I done since my last report?  
(This will be along the lines of stuff that goes in generally)*

*What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)*

*If you've made progress, great, if you haven't, explain why and what you're doing instead.*

*Will be discontinuing Queer Peer program, and replacing it with support groups, so as to place less burden on individual students*

*What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)  
I will be meeting with members of the Uni about pronoun training, a big thing on my manifesto.*

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)"*

*This week we're recruiting for the Gay Saint, our Queering the Home, and to perform at events!*

**Lifelong and Flexible Learners Officer – Sandra Mitchell – No report submitted, no reason given**

### **SRC Reports**

**SRC Accommodation Officer – Nevena Tsaneva – Newly Co-Opted member, was informed no report was necessary for their first meeting**

**SRC Member for First Years – Polina Sevastyanova**

*What have I done since my last report?*

- Talked to Amy about making direct entry integration more of a focus in second year in various ways, and to pass this on to school presidents and second year class reps.
- Plan for plan of action to improve visiting days.
- Asked to help societies committee to help work on the website (let me help please)

*What progress has been made on my manifesto?*

I've kind of added new things I want to work on, so nothing manifesto specific.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

Going undercover on next week's and week after's visiting days to pinpoint current problems, and getting some opinions from current ambassadors and freshers/students that went on visiting days.

*Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?*

- Visiting days are new students' first impression of the university and can make or break a decision to choose a university (I made the decision to come to St Andrews on my visiting days), so if there are problems with this it should be a priority.
- Also direct entry people are always confused and need to be protected.

### **SRC Member for Gender Equality – Leonor Capelier**

*What have I done since my last report?*

After contacting the heads of various departments for the Gender Equality focus of the Equally Safe festival, I have received very positive feedback with the schools of IR and psychology saying they would be more than willing to organise one-off lectures with this focus in mind. I am awaiting confirmation of whether the University would back this initiative to then organise dates for the lectures.

I am organising a group meeting with representatives of feminist societies to reach out to more speakers for the festival and to decide on themes for the collaborative events.

As elections are nearing both on a University scale and (likely) a national level, I have started to brainstorm ideas with Jamie about how to target women to go and vote.

*What progress has been made on my manifesto?*

Enforcing more successful collaborations between societies.  
Showcasing the importance of Gender Equality through a themed week (now a festival)

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

*I hope to have clearer ideas about what events and collaborations will be happening during the festival so that I can then start promoting it.*

I'd like to start on a campaign to promote Ask for Angela, whether it's creating a video or an info sheet which is located in Halls.

*Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?*

Keeping students informed about the avenues of help and action against GBV.

Promoting Gender Equality in a cohesive and a collaborative manner.

### **SRC Member for Racial Equality – Zoe Ruki**

*What have I done since my last report?*

I have sent out a committee application form and received several applications. I have created a facebook page which has over 150 likes for St Andrews Multicultural Week.

*What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)*

I am continuing to make sure SAM Week is a success!

*What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)*

I will have sat down with all cultural societies and formed a committee.

I will have reached out to the Head of Admissions to establish a relationship between the University and my school.

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)*

I hope to educate students about different cultures in St Andrews and celebrate everyone's cultural backgrounds. Students can get involved by joining the committee or attending events.

With the diversity initiative, I hope to increase the diversity of applications to the University.

### **SRC Member for Students with Disabilities – Emily Muller**

*"What have I done since my last report?"*

*I have completed a draft of a disabilities subcommittee constitution.*

*What progress has been made on my manifesto?*

*Not much this week quite honestly...working on establishing a panel of representatives to further aid me before I get into the grit of my manifesto.*

*Particularly as it relates to my access campaign! I've got the skin and bones of the thing sorted out but I don't want to be rash with it.*

*If you've made progress, great, if you haven't, explain why and what you're doing instead.*

*Answered above!*

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

*I hope to have my constitution draft finalised and complete...ready to consult with various disability groups on wording before I begin to work on a motion.*

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)"*

*It matters because more representation and further accessibility helps all of us!*

**SRC Member for Student Health – Emma Walsh – No report submitted, no reason given**

**SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation – Britt McArdle**

*What have I done since my last report?*

I got back in touch with Seamus (CompSci President) about his Widening Access plans - he's currently working on everything and will get back in touch with me in a few weeks.

I'm also in the process of organising the event I mentioned in my last report, namely, a tea, board game and general wellbeing event with a visible Wellbeing and Equal Opportunities presence, where people are welcome to talk about anything they're finding difficult at university. The aim would be to encourage anyone feeling alone in finding certain things at St Andrews difficult to come and talk about it, meet others who may be in a similar situation, and to be provided with resources for how they can get help for their specific problems if needed. The current plan is for the event to go ahead in Week 4, but we're just in early stages of planning at the moment.

I have contacted CAPOD regarding the technical side of setting up a Widening Access network. Hopefully I'll be able to attend a meeting with them soon to discuss this more in person.

I will be setting up a discussion group to discuss the Albany Park development - several people on councils have said they're interested in joining this!

I've also attended the usual weekly Wellbeing and Equal Opportunities meetings. I'm discussing Visiting Day accessibility with the rest of the Equal Opps committee before I get in touch with Admissions.

*What progress has been made on my manifesto?*

Hopefully I'll be entering discussions with CAPOD very soon about setting up a Widening Access network! This would ideally include an anonymous forum as planned in my manifesto.

I'm also ensuring to keep up to date with the Albany Park development, and will do my best to ensure that the concerns of students from low-income / other WAP backgrounds are considered by everyone involved in building the new accommodation.

I'm also making sure to address any and all concerns students bring to me relating to WAP - including helping with student-run projects.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

I'm hoping to at least have a date sorted with CAPOD to go in and speak to them about the WAP network, if not to have met with them and begin to work on developing the WAP network.

We should also have begun discussions and hopefully arranged a meeting time for the Albany Park discussion group.

*Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?*

It matters because people from WAP backgrounds deserve the best from their university experience, and there's still a lot of work to be done to make St Andrews an inclusive, affordable (or at least more affordable) place! Things like promoting wellbeing, providing information on helpful resources such as bursaries, and advocating for affordable accommodation, are important for everyone, irrespective of their background.

Anyone can get involved with as much or as little commitment as suits them just by getting in touch with me about anything I'm working on, or anything they'd like me to work on! Email: bs200 Facebook: Britt McArdle

### **SRC Arts/Divinity Faculty President – Sophia Rommel**

*What have I done since my last report?*

I attended Joint Councils, Academic Council (main discussion points were the NSS Results, BAME inclusion, and the restructuring of the Senate), and EduComm (where the main discussion points were mental health (particularly working w/ Flora on staff wellbeing reps/officers in all Depts and/or Schools), climate change action, the Careers Centre, and the possibility of changing of term time dates).

After Academic Council, I contacted the VP for Diversity (Dr Woodfield) and expressed my interest in joining the Race Equality Charter Group. I will be meeting Dr Woodfield in October to discuss the People's Strategy, how I can work as part of the Charter Group (which I am very much looking forward to!), as well as how I can reach out to student groups focused on equality, diversity, and inclusion (such as the Minorities and Philosophy) to hopefully get them involved in the Group, too. Aside from that, I helped train the School Presidents and have been in touch with the elected ID4000-level (Arts) representative, who has now signed up for a training session. I have also been talking to Markus about being part of the 'speed dating' societies event he's planning, working particularly with several academic societies (TBC).

Regarding Semester 2, I have met with the head of the Minorities and Philosophy. We have agreed to plan, organise and co-host a discussion panel (akin to the one I held as Philosophy School President last year) either on a topic pertaining to LGBTQ+ or neurodiversity, alongside the Philosophy Society (for which I am also the Diversity and Outreach Officer).

*What progress has been made on my manifesto?*

As it seems, I will soon be part of the Race Equality Charter Group, so I am currently focusing on the E&D section of the Manifesto. Moreover, I helped train the School Presidents on Sunday and have been encouraging/supporting their initiatives regarding careers events and careers centre discussions, fulfilling this part of my manifesto, too. I've also been having a few discussions with Amy and Dennis regarding how different Depts and Schools approach mental health, and what we can do to help.

Other than that, I finished helping run the Class Rep Elections, which was a good experience. Amy, Dennis and I have also put the possibility of adding a tutor class rep position on hold, due to pushback from some tutors (whom Amy will have met with by the time this report is looked at during SRC). I now also have an 'Office Hour' from 4-5pm in Rectors on Thursdays.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

I hope to have continued working on the aforementioned unfinished initiatives and events.

*Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?*

A lot of what Amy, Dennis and I do is focused on education, which directly impacts the students. As always, anyone who has an interest in any of the above initiatives and events I have mentioned is welcome to contact me at artdivfp@

### **SRC Science/Medicine Faculty President – Dennis Goodtzov**

*What have I done since my last report?*

*Attended the first Academic Council meeting of the semester on Wednesday*

*Attended EduCom meeting on Thursday*

*Ran a class rep election for ID2003/5 successfully*

*Discussed the effectiveness of the careers centre, student services, and wellbeing officers within schools with Sophia and the SP's*

*What progress has been made on my manifesto?*

*The discussion with the EduCom on Thursday made it clear that having only one wellbeing rep within each school is probably not enough to address serious problems that students bring up. Within physics, most (if not all) staff have wellbeing training, which makes it easier for students. From what I understood, the DoT's in some schools are chosen as wellbeing reps (some don't even have the training, which leads to further complications). DoT's are not considered the most approachable figures, whether that's due to their already immense workload or otherwise. Hence the updated goal is to replicate what we have in physics in other schools within the faculty. Having more lecturers with wellbeing training would greatly improve the support students could get, as they would be able to talk with those they are more comfortable around, and not just the DoT. Having an*

*established wellbeing rep within every school is a good start towards this, so a way forward is clear. Sophia and I will look to work with the DoWell to achieve this.*

*Additionally, there was a unanimous agreement among the SP's that the Career's Centre is somewhat of a joke:*

- A student was told to make a LinkedIn Profile as career advice*
- Students are often directed to the website as a serious suggestion*
- A student was told that changing their last name may help them find career success*

*This comes alongside the fact that most/all students don't find any of the advice they are given particularly helpful, and even demoralising in some cases.*

*This, as well as some issues with Student Services that I mentioned in my first report (last semester) shows the clear disconnect between the careers centre/student services and students which needs to be addressed.  
What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

*It is difficult to quantify the amount of time needed to put what I mentioned above into practice, but over the next few weeks I'll be coordinating a more structured plan with Sophia, the DoEd and DoWell about how many (or a minimum number of) wellbeing-trained lecturers/profs/tutors there should be within each school to effectively help students and address the issues mentioned. My current idea is to begin with a poll for students to fill out to gauge the interest in increasing the amount of lecturers with wellbeing training.*

*Furthermore, I'll be hoping to decide on a plan of action concerning the re-structuring of the careers centre and student services with Sophia and the SP's, as well as anyone else interested.*

*Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?*

*Students are referred to both the careers centre and student services very often, and both are seen as an integral part of student welfare and wellbeing. They should live up to the standard that this university prides itself on, both for its sake and for student's health.*

*Equally, increasing the amount of lecturers with wellbeing training will make it easier for students to get the help they need, without necessarily speaking to someone they've never seen/spoken to before. A lecturer with whom a student shares a connection with is more approachable to speak about personal problems.*

### **SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener – Emma Whitefield**

*"What have I done since my last report?  
(This will be along the lines of stuff that goes in generally)*

Since the last report, I have attended meetings for Academic Monitoring and the Academic Council. These meetings and their papers were very informative and allowed me to meet the majority of the professionals I will be working closely with.

However, I have been on vacation this past week, so there isn't an overwhelming amount to report here.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)*

By the next report, the PGT and PGR forums will be scheduled and the PG Exec reps will have been selected. Furthermore, academic rep training will take place. I also plan to hold my first office hour so that representatives can come to me with any issues from the beginning of the semester. I am also partnering with the Events chair in the PG Society to plan our ideas to have postgraduate academic family events to make the PG students feel more included in the StA traditions.

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)"*

The PG student reps will feel that I champion and escalate their causes and concerns and work for the betterment of all PG students' academic interests. And the participation in these various committees allows the PG voice to be heard. My work within the PGSoc will hopefully help bridge the gap felt between PG students and our undergraduate counterparts.

### **SRC Postgraduate Development Officer – Ana-Maria Neferu**

*What have I done since my last report? (This will be along the lines of stuff that goes in generally)*

Nothing other than attending the usual weekly meetings. The day of this council I will also attend the university's Student Experience Committee meeting.

*What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)*  
None this week.

*If you've made progress, great, if you haven't, explain why and what you're doing instead.*  
Little time/minor health problems this week.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)*  
Progress on what I mentioned in the previous report.

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)*

This will probably stay on as my default answer to this question because everything I do boils down to this: I am trying to improve the experience of postgraduate students. They can get involved by continuing to share their needs with me and giving me feedback of how effectively I am working to address them.

### **Principal Ambassador – Ben McAuley**

*"What have I done since my last report?"*

The Principal Team have:

1. Worked our first Visiting day

2. Held our first Ambassador Social of the Semester
3. Ran WP training

*What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)*

N/A

*If you've made progress, great, if you haven't, explain why and what you're doing instead.*

N/A

*What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)*

Run Situational Training

Conduct a full review of the two Visiting Days so far in preparation for the remaining 3 this semester.

*Why does what I'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved? (As above)"*

Our continued training and review programs over the next few weeks will enable us to ensure that new Ambassadors are comfortable taking on more of a leading role at the Visiting Days that take place later in the semester.

## **Rectors Assessor – Camilla Duke**

*What have I done since my last report?*

Since my last report, I have met with the President and Community Relations officer to discuss voter registration, POLIS, and potential areas for collaboration with the SRC. We are in the process of getting Polis (the forum for heads of political societies) together to strategize on how to reach out to students to encourage voter registration and turnout in St Andrews. We would also like to work with fellow members of SRC to promote a "why voting matters" campaign. I have also made some progress on re-launching the Rector's Inspire series. Applications for new members of the Rector's Committee closed yesterday, and we are currently reviewing these and scheduling interviews for the coming weeks.

*What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

By the next meeting of councils, I will ideally have two brand new members of the Rector's Committee. I would like to have made progress on our voter registration campaign, and hopefully have some events in place for voter registration drives. I would also like to have more concrete plans for the Rector's Inspire speaker series.

*Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?*

Voter registration is crucial to all students, we would love for all councillors to get involved in our push to promote registration and turnout. I am always looking for opportunities to collaborate with other councillors and subcommittees, so if you are working on any campaigns or projects that you'd like to collaborate on, please do reach out!

**SRC Member without Portfolio – Rowan Wishart – Report Submitted late**

"What have I done since my last report?

Got some socials up my sleeve.

What progress has been made on my manifesto? (if applicable)

N/A

If you've made progress, great, if you haven't, explain why and what you're doing instead.

Most of my job is socials - so, planning those.

What do I hope to achieve by next report? (What it says on the tin)

Solidify plans for a social.

Why does what i'm doing matter to students, and how can they get involved?  
(As above)

While they can't really get involved with my job, it's important I'm a friendly face for people outwith councils. By keeping the twitter and Facebook updated I'm hoping to keep people informed.

