



Minutes from Education Committee

23rd of April 2018, 5:30pm

Students' Association Committee Room

Present

Member

Zachary Davis
John Weaver
Fanny Empacher
Lily Ratchiff
Erin Phillips
Julian Frink
Gergely Flamich
Alison Quinn
Ellen White
Gaby Levey
Alice Foulis
Sarah Gharib
Carissa Jacobs
Caitlin Macdonald
Antonia Zimmermann
Alisa Danilenko
Rikke Nedergaard

Position

Director of Education
Science & Medicine FP
Postgraduate Academic Convener
Art History SP
Biology SP
Classics SP
Computer Science SP
Economics & Finance SP
English SP
Film Studies & Music SP
History SP
IR SP
Medicine SP
Modern Languages SP
Philosophy SP
Physics & Astronomy SP
Social Anthropology SP

Absent

Jacob Pepper
Philip Caraci
Kamilla Rekvenyi

Chemistry SP
Management SP
Mathematics & Statistics SP

1 Apologies

Member	Position
Nicola Simonetti	Arts & Divinity FP
Cameron Smith	Divinity SP
Charlotte Gordon	Earth Sciences & Geology SP
Abi Whitefield	Geography & SD SP
Gianluca Giammei	Psychology & Neuroscience SP

2 Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes from the previous Education Committee were approved by the members. The Director of Education reminded all members to compile a list of recommended Class Rep positions for the next academic year.

ACTION - SPs: Submit a list of recommend Class Rep positions for the next academic year to the Director of Education by the 30th of April.

3 Reports

Science & Medicine FP

- Enjoyed the feedback and discussion with the Master and Proctor. Very productive. The SRC met for the last time on Tuesday, with an extremely short meeting. Participated in a few visiting day evens in Physics. Besides that, not much else is going on. Enjoy the sunlight and warmth while it lasts!

Arts & Divinity FP

- Ive started putting together the handover document for Gianluca.

PG Academic Convenor

- No report submitted.

Art History

- No report submitted.

Biology

- No report submitted.

Chemistry

- No report submitted.

Classics

- No report submitted.

Computer Science

- No report submitted.

Divinity

- No report submitted.

Earth & Environmental Sciences

- It's field trip season so Earth Science students in all years have been getting out of St Andrews and enjoying a variety of rocks and rivers.
- We had a guest from Barrick Gold visit and give a talk on Monday, which was well-attended.
- Next week there will be a guest talk on planetary protection, and the week after that some alumni are coming back to St Andrews to give careers talks.

Economics & Finance

- No report submitted.

English

- We had our final SSCC last week, which was uneventful due to no one having had classes weeks 4-7 because of strikes.
- I sat down with the president-elect on Wednesday and did a handover with her and we're in the process of making plans for an honours module fair next Friday together.
- My Journalism careers event was reasonably well attended- thanks to all who shared it on facebook- and we had a nice pub social afterwards.
- Pub quiz on Friday too!

Film Studies

- Handed over with Music Centre School Presidents.
- Planned agenda for final SSCC.
- Have planned for an early senior honours dissertation meeting before the vac. starts.

Geography & SD

- With the end of the strikes, things are somewhat returning to normal! We have our final SSCCs of the year on Wednesday, so it will be interesting to see how the strikes have impacted and if students are happy with how things have been dealt with so far. Im sure it will be interesting! Im also starting to think about a handover document for my successor.

History

- We held a very successful SSCC where a lot of important issues got discussed and action points were made.
- Reaching Committee was also very successful and a good discussion of strike impact was had.
- We also held the annual school photo for fourth years, this year with an additional history degree photo as well as the usual medieval photo - great fun and very sunny weather for it! Otherwise Im just getting on with organising a fourth year dissertation hand in event.

International Relations

- We have a Careers event in the pipeline for MLitt students and we are looking at the possibility of having a transition event for incoming Honours students, either at the end of the semester or at the beginning of next semester but we are still unsure (discussing it with next years SP).
- I had my final scheduled SSCC but we are still trying to reschedule the cancelled MLitt SSCC from the strike season.
- Ive set up a handover meeting with my successor post-dissertation deadline and weve already had an informal discussion about it, and Im planning to rework my handover document and send that over to her as well.

Management

- No report submitted.

Mathematics & Statistics

- No report submitted.

Medicine

- No report submitted.

Modern Languages

- No report submitted.

Philosophy

- No report submitted.

Physics & Astronomy

- It's been a pretty eventful couple of weeks in Physics; the last of the Mid Semester Surveys were processed and results communicated to staff, reps have discussed these results, and outcomes and solutions were presented last week at this year's final Student Staff Council.
- An inter-year pizza lunch mixer is being held in the Staff Common Room next Tuesday, the aim of which is to allow students to ask those in years above them for advice on module choices and general progression through the School.

Psychology & Neuroscience

- We had a career-related event in which we had alumni talking about what they do now after having graduated with a psychology or neuroscience degree.
- Planning to meet with the new School President next week.

Social Anthropology

- Along with my employability reps I arranged a highly successful careers event called "What Can You Do With an Anthropology Degree?". We had alumni speakers from social research, film-making and law.
- My first-year rep Kate hosted another well-attended "Shut Up and Write" event. We had lots of new people come who hasn't been to these events before, so that was great.
- Along with my MRes rep Neil I set up a coastal walk to Crail, which was well attended by MRes students (though it was open to all students).
- I held an all-student meeting to discuss various student issues. I think if these are to be held in the future, they should be held earlier in the semester.
- My UG reps and I met to prepare for the SSCC meeting next week. Student feedback is scarce since students haven't had much class due to the strike (more students than usual filled out the survey, but they had less to say).
- My HoD and I have been planning a transition-to-dissertation and module introduction event next week.
- I was at a Equality and Diversity meeting where we are labouring to finalise the Athena Swan report.

3.1 Question for Faculty Presidents

No questions were raised by the committee members.

3.2 Question for PG Academic Convenor

No questions were raised by the committee members.

3.3 Question for School Presidents

No questions were raised by the committee members.

4 Terms & Conditions of Study

Members discussed a proposed draft update to the Terms & Conditions of Study at the University. The following points were raised:

- It was agreed that the Sponsio Academica should be left as it is.
- In the Honour Code, under the freedom of speech section, the phrase "other obligations" should be clarified. Members asked if this is referring to external or internal issues. This section states "about which I have been advised", however it was not clear when this information would be presented to students. Additionally, it was asked for a clearer definition of what is considered bringing the University into disrepute.
- The Classics SP asked what the difference was between regulations and policies and why these required two separate points.
- The IR SP asked if more detailed information could be given within the academic alerts process with regards to visa status.
- It was asked for more clarification about the expectations of students surrounding the use of social media.

5 Gender Diversity of Student Leaders

The Social Anthropology SP raised the topic of gender diversity within student leaders in the School. It was highlighted that all the School President candidates, Class Reps, and Social Anthropology Society President were female, and what actions could be done to promote a more diverse representation. It was noted that the majority of students in the School are female. The Physics SP stated that it was good practice to have candidates for AGMs/elections to informally nominate prior, allowing organisers to get an idea of the gender diversity and possibly encourage other candidates to run. It was also noted that attention should be paid to the gender diversity of members at public events, especially during advertising periods, to ensure a fair representation of genders.

6 AOCB

The Director of Education raised the topic of a summary report for Class Reps, to help aid in handover documents for the next academic year. It would also double as a nomination for the Class Rep awards. It was noted that this report is designed to be as brief as possible to encourage a higher uptake. If the members had any feedback on the report template they should pass it to the Director of Education.

ACTION - SPs: Pass on any feedback on the summary report form to the Director of Education by the 25th of April.

The meeting adjourned.

This was the last meeting of Education Committee for the 2017/18 academic year.