

# AGENDA

## Education Zone

### 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020



There will be a meeting of the **Students' Union Education Zone on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 via Microsoft Teams**. In order to ensure the meeting is kept to time please ensure all attached papers are read in advance.

#### **1 IN ATTENDANCE**

##### 1.1 Members Present

Lexi Ehresmann LE      VP Education  
Altair Seel AS          Non-Traditional Students Officer  
Sonny Bailey SB        Postgraduate Officer  
Euan Stainbank ES      Engagement Officer  
Ordinary Members

##### 1.2 In Attendance

##### 1.3 Observers

Rosamund Vickers RV    Democracy and Representation Coordinator

##### 1.4 Apologies

##### 1.5 Absent without Apologies

#### **2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

#### **3 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **4 CHALLENGES TO ORDER PAPER**

#### **5 DATES TO NOTE**

5.1 General Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct

5.2 By-Election Nominations Open 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct

5.3 RATE Launched November

#### **6 ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS**

##### 6.1 Education Executive

##### 6.1.1 Faculty Officer (x2)

Candidates: Lukas Mayer, Stewart Gallacher, Katherine Burrows

Elected: Lukas Mayer, Stewart Gallacher

##### 6.1.2 Module/Programme Representative (x2)

Candidates: Sarah Gardiner, Elena Semple, Feroza Rehman, Rebecca Stewart, Alexander Brewer, Catherine Stewart, Alexandra Shukri, Heather Gimmell

Elected: Elena Semple, Sara Gardiner

##### 6.1.3 Ordinary Member (x3)

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Candidates: Ross Costigane, Catriona Gilland, Katie Gethings, Corey Muslek, Stewart Davie, Heather Gimmell, Klara Javanov

Elected: Ross Costigane, Klara Javanov, Katie Gethings

## 7 REPORTS

### 7.1 VP Education Update

**LE** Well done to all in transitioning into a completely different way of learning. Students as Partners initiative, students can test online learning environment, good opportunity to influence way teaching is being delivered. UG Faculty Officer recruitment for remaining vacancies, almost all filled. PG Faculty Officer posts open for applications. Programme Reps is also open for volunteers. Pandemic Pals being launched, open for both students and volunteers. Student Covid-19 Impact survey results being analysed.

### 7.2 Non-traditional Students Officer Update

**AS** A lot of changes to manifesto priorities due to Covid-19. Focus now on signposting for mature students, integrated students, care experience students, and students who have come from collage. Working alongside other officers for a student spotlight project.

### 7.3 Engagement Officer Update

**ES** Changes to manifesto plans due to Covid-19. Hoping to increase engagement by students with meetings and opportunities across the Education Zone (good to see good turnout tonight). Working out how to adapt manifesto plans to the current climate. Stirling Student Employment Forum, either a section of Union website or Facebook page. Page for to find employment opportunities, work experience opportunities, and trade union information. Why we need it? Many current employment services do not always offer opportunities which are best for students and their specific needs. The tailored Forum would allow for us to find the necessary information for students prior to posting, so this can be included alongside job postings. Examples are rate of pay, ensuring it is within minimum wage, upfront about job status, clarify position on anti-social hours. Some capacity for paid internships. Facilitate trade unions being able to speak to students on the Forum to offer information on what they do for student employees. Structured plan hopefully complete by end of November. Survey in January and ready to launch by start of February.

**OM:** How is this not replicating what the University already has in place? Will this work alongside University current careers and employability service?

**ES:** The main different will be that the University careers and employability service is focused on building up skills and getting placements in a specific industry, whereas this Forum will be primarily focused on posting the right opportunities in the best space. Will be looking to work with the careers and employability service to ensure there is not too much overlap and the Forum is tailored to current needs.

### 7.4 Postgraduate Officer

**SB** Changes to manifesto plans due to Covid-19. Looking at alternatives. Took part in Postgraduate Student Welcome by the Students' Union. Working with VP Ed on infographic to assist PG students on change from UG to PG, including mental health resources. Looking to set up PG events, potential conference in second semester.

## 8 UPDATES, DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

### 8.1 Student Experience During the Pandemic Survey Update

**LE** Will be releasing report for students on the survey result. Some of the biggest themes coming out in relation to Learning and Teaching was the workload for students, will be working with the University and student academic reps on this. Another theme was issues on confusion on the variety of virtual learning environments, with many different learning portals. Another trend was around timetabling, students are finding it hard to find all the relevant timetabling information. Teams vs Big Blue Button, with BBB not

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working well for students, please reach out to myself, Faculty Officers and Module/Programme reps with your thoughts and experiences.

Students expressed frustration with only being able to book 3-hour slots at the library, I worked with Information Services regarding this and it will now be extended to 6 hours. Other issues highlighted was the booking system was quite clunky and unclear. Work is being done on this to hopefully simplify the system. Big desire for safe spaces for group study. Conversations being had with the Library if there is a way to facilitate this safely and within restrictions. Finally, a lot of reports of online content not being accessible to all students. I have been frequently been raising this with the Faculties. Staff currently do not have the capacity to subtitle and provide transcripts for all content, so will potentially have to be worked on at the wider University level.

#### **9 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

9.1 Education Zone/General Meeting 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020

#### **10 RESERVED BUSINESS**