

Education Zone

18th March
5-6pm

C.2A19 / MS TEAMS

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In Attendance**
 - Members Present
 - Adelayo Adelayo (AA) VP Education
 - In Attendance
 - 61 Academic Reps & Faculty Officers
 - 2 Staff Support
- **Minutes Ratification**
 - No minutes ratified
- **Dates to Note**
 - Academic Rep Symposium: LT2V1 2-5pm Wednesday 19th March
 - General meeting: 5-7 pm Thursday 10th April 2025
 - Sports Ball: 28th March
 - Inspirational Women Awards: 31st March 2025 Venue 5-6pm
 - RATE Teaching Awards nominations closes on April 1st
 - SU Awards Ball: 3rd April 7 pm
 - RATE Teaching Awards: 8th May
- **Elections & Resignations**
 - Elections
 - No elections took place
 - Resignations
 - No resignations were handed in
- **Reports**
 - Vice President Education, Adelayo Adebayo
 - AI feedback has been given back to the University after the last education zone. An AI Advisory group has been set up to help with things like a student guide and improving training for students and staff.

- Learning and Teaching Conference in June – the theme is issues that students are facing including assessments, feedback and international students.
 - Next welcome week will be changing in correlation to inductions but not much can be said currently.
 - Scotland Tertiary Enhancement Programme. Has attended two discovery days so far and the next one is on Wednesday the 26th of March. Part of a 4-year plan so just getting started.
 - A meeting has been set up with the designer of the Student Learners Journey Map to feedback the thoughts from the previous meeting. The idea of personalising the journey map for students especially for students with disabilities will be discussed.
- Engagement Volunteer Officer, Chris Sorkos
 - No report given
- Postgraduate Volunteer Officer, John Adithya
 - No report given
- Alternative Pathways Volunteer Officer, VACANT
 - No report given
- Mature Students' Volunteer Officer, Tabitha Mckechnie
 - No report given
- Parents & Carers Volunteer Officer, Huzaifah Mirza
 - No report given
- Care Experienced Students Volunteer Officer, Brandon Wilson
 - No report given
- **Updates, discussion and decision topics**
 - SSFC feedback
 - OM: Standardised agenda and minute taking has been very helpful.
 - AA: There will be a tracker to be introduced in the new academic year so students can track how their feedback has been used and what is changing because of it.
 - Attendance
 - Received complaints about the tone of the message sent to students as it seems intimidating.
 - OM: The absence self-certify doesn't feedback to the attendance.
 - AA: Based on my understanding, the self-certify is to help the university track to see why students are absent but I don't know why that is not coming back on the email saying that you have been absent

- OM: The email assumes that it is the student's fault – not the lecturer. For example, if the lecturer cancels.
 - AA: It is an automated message, but I have complained about this, and they are going to work on changing it. This is also the case with Visa students who are having difficulty understanding the wording of the message.
- Students can also go to their attendance profile to make sure they have been recorded as attended
 - OM: We had optional classes; we had to go to 1 of 3 options and we have been seen as absent from the other 2.
 - AA asked to get in contact with the students so they can sort.
 - AA: If you register attendance for an online class, it will not take your attendance as your location is not on campus.
- NSS Survey Feedback
 - A national student survey for final year students.
 - OM: It is important for the University, so they don't have a choice, but it is just another survey to fill in. However, if you do not fill it in by the end of March then you get a cold call from NSS.
 - OM: They don't give you an option.
 - AA: This is the first time I have heard of this, but I will do some research into this.
 - OM: Their behaviour is borderline harassment.
 - OM: We were told by our faculty that they would call and email us.
 - OM: Questions were sometimes vague.
 - AA: The university will be judged on the results but there have been complaints by students about the vagueness of the questions.
- Academic Rep Symposium
 - Had over 70 academic reps sign up
 - OM: Is it talks or is it more interactive?
 - IC: Mix of both.
 - AA: This event is fully in person. You will also be able to provide feedback about the event afterwards so we can make this a regular thing.
- **Any Other Business**
 - **Education Zone Feedback**
 - How has your experience been?

- OM: Has been a wonderful experience and allowed em to get to know my classmates. I have managed to gather feedback and brought about change.
- OM: Has been an interesting experience. It has given me more to do and allowed me to better connect with my fellow students.
- OM: As a second-year rep I can see change happening. I like that I can use this to boost my CV and use it for the MyStir award
- What were the barriers in your role as a rep?
 - OM: Weren't many barriers.
 - OM: The main barrier was money as I couldn't host the events I tried to set up.
 - OM: A barrier was the Education Zone meeting times as it clashes with classes.
- Are you aware of the Academic restructure taking effect in the next Academic year?
 - OM: I know it exists but not sure what it is.
 - AA: We are moving from module reps to Division Academic Reps for undergraduates which will last the whole academic year and Programme Reps for post-graduate. The paid Faculty reps with by faculty based.
 - OM: How will division reps be chosen?
 - AA: There will be more division reps that academic reps. We want as many as possible so there will be a designated number of division reps depending on how big the faculty is, we hope everyone that signs up will become a module rep. Information is on the website.
- Recommendations for the Union for next academic year?
 - OM: More collaboration between the union and societies
 - OM: More tips on how to get people engaged.
 - OM: To offer more events for students to make connections and interact
- **Date of Next Meeting: October 2025**
- **Reserved business**