KG: My name is Katie, I’m the Vice President of Education. I was a psychology student, I finished three years, I’m now representing students full time for a year, and next September I’ll be coming back to finish my fourth year. I basically take care of all things academics and education, and I’m here to advocate on the behalf of everything education and academics at the University.

**Care experienced officer**

YS: My name is Yewende, and I’m currently the care experienced officer. I’m a social work student, in my first year. In this role, I’m happy to represent people that are care experienced and I’m excited about the activities and programs that will be going on this coming year.

**Parents and carers officer**

NF: I’m Nicky, the parents and carers officer. I was also disibility officer last year. I basically do quite a lot of volunteer work for Carers UK and go to lots of events at the Scottish Parliament. So if you’ve got any issues you would like taken there then just email me. We also have a mature student group on Facebook which has a lot of parents in it. So if you want to be part of that also email me and I will send you the link for that.

**VP Education**

KG: So now I’ll give you a little overview of what my objectives for the year are. So first of all I would like to introduce life skills workshops. So these are basically aimed at being the things you are kind of expected to learn at university, but you might not learn these if you don’t have certain experiences. These are things like personal finances or how to find housing, etc. Another thing I want to bring in is a consent course. I’m really interested in looking at the consent culture at the university and how we can make this better. I’m currently setting up a consent working group, which is open to all students. Finally I’d like to work on the academic reps system, we’re redeveloping the recruitment and training for reps, so that it will be more comprehensive.

**Industrial Action Update**

KG: So industrial action basically just means the strikes that took place the first few weeks of the semester. So as of Thursday 21st September, the local industrial action was called off before the final third week, as the local Stirling UCU branch accepted the University’s payment offer.

So the reason they were striking was over payment deductions that members of staff who took part in the marketing assessment boycott over the summer, and they’ve now reached an agreement over that specific dispute, so those strikes were called off.

However, there is a wide national dispute over pay, working conditions and pensions that still has yet to be resolved. So there is a likelihood that there might be more disruptions during this academic year, which you will be updated on.

But we just want to reiterate that as a Students Union, we support the UCU as we understand that their working conditions are our learning conditions, and we want to go to a university where our lecturers feel valued by their employers.

**Learning Spaces Upgrade**

KG: So over the last year there has been refurbishments to 22 teaching rooms and there’s been AV upgrades to 48 additional teaching rooms and 10 lecture theatres. So these have been really great for hybrid learning and making it genuinely inclusive. And the 22 new classrooms are currently in use for your timetabled teaching. And basically the idea is trying to facilitate a new kind of learning that steers away from someone standing and talking at you, and instead tries to make some genuinely engaging classes.

Additionally, these rooms are all available to be booked by staff and students when they’re not in timetabled classes, so you can do that by going to the resource booker. You can also just use any rooms that are free, although if the room is booked for a class you will be asked to leave.

**Decolonising the Curriculum Event**

KG: So this is one of the events that the Students’ Union is hosting this year as part of Black History Month, we are wanting to do a panel style event under the banner of decolonising the curriculum, which is a national campaign. This campaign has been going on for a few years and has the intention of looking at the curriculum that we teach at every level in the UK. We are open to themes within this subject, so please get in touch if you have any ideas.

**Executive Committee Elections**

2x Faculty Officers:

2x Academic Representatives:

Michelle Gates

Jesko Con Bernuth

3x Ordinary Students:

Tasnim Jahan

Kellie Parker

Estelle Raeburn

**Dates to Note**

Undergraduate Academic Rep Conference-4th October, 2-4pm, C.LTA4

General Meeting-5th October, 5pm, C.LTW1

Elections-9am 17th October to 5pm 19th October

**Date of next meeting**

16th November, 5pm