



## **Student Action Group for Engagement (S.A.G.E.)**

**16<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (13:00 – 14:00)**

### **Present:**

Moses Apiliga, VP GSBS (**Chair**)

Viktor Mirchev, Finance, Accounting & Risk Department Rep

Zubair Sarwar, Management & Human Resource Management Department Rep

Stewart Baker, Applied Science Department Rep

Peakay Dennis, Psychology Department Rep

Jennifer Hewitt, Physiotherapy & Paramedicine Department Rep

Kirsty Winter, Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department Rep

Nicola Gray, Media & Journalism Department Rep

### **Apologies:**

Eilidh Fulton, Student President

Maria Nagy, Social Work Department Rep

Stephanie Slater, Department Rep

Sandra Kubasik, Applied Computer Games Department Rep

Maggie Wierzbicka, Economics & Law Department Rep

Amy Senior, Social Sciences Department Rep

Kimberley Brown, (Nursing & Community Health Department Rep)

### **Absent:**

Bernadette Prickett, Computing Department Rep

Tanya Fate-Cockbain, Fashion, Marketing, Tourism & Events Department Rep

Katie Moffat, Occupational Therapy, Human Nutrition & Dietetics Department Rep

Sophie Robinson, Vision Sciences Department Rep

### **In Attendance:**

Susan Docherty, VP SCEBE

Bethany Stevenson, VP SHLS

Lesley McAleavy, GCU Policy & Development Officer

Paul Stalker, Academic Rep Co-ordinator (**Clerk**)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **1. Approval of S.A.G.E. Minutes (17/04/2019)**

The chair made reference to the minutes of the previous S.A.G.E. meeting (17/04/2019) and asked for all those who attended that meeting to approve whether this was an accurate reflection or not. The minutes were approved.

### **2. Full Time Officer Update**

#### **- *VP SCEBE Update***

The VP SCEBE noted that in addition to attending SCEBE School Board meetings that they had been promoting the recruitment process to fill the remaining empty SCEBE Department Rep roles. The VP SHLS also noted that they had been delivering lecture shout-outs to promote the Students' Association and been promoting the recruitment process for the Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Reps and the Postgraduate Research (PGR) Reps.

#### **- *VP SHLS Update***

The VP SHLS noted that in addition to attending SHLS School Board meetings they had attended a SHLS Learning & Teaching Student Experience Forum event. The VP SHLS also noted that they had been delivering lecture shout-outs to promote the Students' Association.

#### **- *VP GSBS Update***

The VP GSBS noted that in addition to attending meetings with the Dean and Associate Dean of Learning, Teaching & Quality (ADLTQ) in the Glasgow School for Business & Society that they had attended a GSBS Learning & Teaching Student Experience Forum event. The VP GSBS also noted that they had took part in the 'Ask The Officer' event and been promoting the recruitment process for the GSBS Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep.

### **3. Academic Quality & Development Update**

#### **- *Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR) 4***

The GCU Policy & Development Officer explained that every five years every Scottish University is reviewed by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Scotland through an

Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR). The GCU Policy & Development Officer also explained that at the end of the review process QAA Scotland will generate a report for the University, identifying areas of good practice as well as recommendation for enhancements to the learning experience. The GCU Policy & Development Officer noted that GCU is being reviewed this academic year. The GCU Policy & Development Officer also noted that in its last Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR), GCU was judged to have effective arrangements for managing academic standards and the student learning experience.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer highlighted that as part of the ELIR process the University needs to submit a Reflective Analysis in November which QAA Scotland will use to identify themes to explore at ELIR review visit that will take place in March. The GCU Policy & Development Officer explained that in order to generate its Reflective Analysis for the ELIR the university had ran a number of events and activities over a six-week period in Trimester B of the 2018-19 academic year to get feedback from students and staff members on what is done well, as well as what is done not so well at GCU. The GCU Policy & Development Officer explained that the University was in the process of finishing the draft of its Reflective Analysis.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer noted that over the next couple of weeks the University will be undertaking activities to show how what was raised at the feedback events and activities has fed into the drafting of the Reflective Analysis.

#### **4. Banded Marking**

The VP GSBS explained that the University was looking at introducing banded marking, changing the current percentage grading/ marking system to an alpha-numerical grading/ marking system. The VP GSBS also explained that under the alpha-numerical grading/ marking system that the University was looking at there would be a lettered grade for each degree classification level and that each grade would have three numerical increment points to represent the upper, mid-point and lower ranges of a degree classification level.

The VP SCEBE explained that there was concern that some markers were only using certain scores under the current percentage grading/ marking system.

The VP GSBS noted that a number of universities had already introduced banded marking.

The VP GSBS and VP SCEBE asked those present if they any questions or feedback about the idea to introducing banded marking at GCU.

One member noted that they felt banded marking would make it clear for students to know what level their work was at and whether their work was a strong, weak or average mark for that degree classification level.

The VP SCEBE noted the University had launched an online survey to get students views and opinions about introducing banded marking at GCU. The VP SCEBE also noted that the Full Time Officers were holding a consultation event today at 4pm in NH208 and another event on Friday at 11.30am in NH209 to get the views from students about the proposal to introduce banded marking at GCU.

The VP GSBS noted that in addition to wanting to know what students thought about introducing banded marking the University also wanted to discuss with students how they think it should be implemented if introduced.

## **5. Autumn 2019 Academic Rep Gathering**

The VP GSBS and Academic Rep Co-ordinator explained that Academic Rep Gathering events are an opportunity for all UG Class Reps, PGT Class Reps, Department Reps and Postgraduate Taught Reps to come together to discuss the learning experience at GCU. The VP GSBS and Academic Rep Co-ordinator also explained that Academic Rep Gathering events were also opportunity for taught academic reps to attend development training workshops and take part in University and Students Association consultations.

The VP GSBS noted that in the last couple of years the Students' Association had run an Academic Rep Gathering event in Trimester A and another event in Trimester B.

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator noted that currently the Academic Rep Gatherings were half-day/ whole afternoon events that included a school based networking session, a Student Engagement Café session, followed by an opportunity to attend two development training sessions out of a selection of sessions.

The VP GSBS asked those present if they had any feedback about past Students' Association's Academic Rep Gathering events. A number of members indicated that they had liked last year's Academic Gathering events as they had given them an opportunity to meet other Class Representatives. One member noted that they felt that development workshops at last year's Academic Rep Gatherings were really helpful and useful.

The VP GSBS asked those present if they wanted this year's Academic Rep Gathering events to continue with the current format of half-day/ whole afternoon events or whether they wanted to have smaller/ shorter events instead. The majority of members noted that they

wanted the Academic Rep Gathering Events to continue with the current format and to be half-day/ whole afternoon events as in previous years.

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator noted that the Students' Association currently ran development sessions around public speaking, how to influence others and creative ways to get feedback from students. The Academic Rep Co-ordinator also noted that the University had ran development sessions around employability and unconscious bias. The Academic Rep Co-ordinator asked those present if there were additional areas they would like development sessions on. One member noted that they thought having a session around how to use data would be useful.

The VP GSBS noted that the 2019 Autumn Academic Rep Gathering event in Trimester A is currently scheduled to take place on the afternoon of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

## **6. Students' Association By-Law Changes**

The VP GSBS explained that a review of the Students' Association's by-laws had taken place and that a number of changes had been identified to make the by-laws more consistent as well as to ensure that they actually reflect current practice in the organisation. The VP GSBS also explained that the proposed changes would be going to the next Student Voice meeting for approval.

The VP GSBS noted that the proposed changes included some minor changes in relation to academic reps and S.A.G.E and that these changes were to ensure that the by-laws reflected the changes made following last year's Academic Rep Review.

The VP GSBS asked if anyone had any questions or comments about the proposed changes.

## **7. AOCB**

### **- *Programme Approval & Review Events***

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator asked those present who had received an email about taking part in Programme Approval & Review events, but had yet to reply back about their availability, do so as soon as possible.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer explained that it was really important that each Programme Review/ Programme Approval event has a student panel member to ensure that there is a student perspective during the process.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer noted that student panel members receive training and support from the University's Department of Academic Quality & Development. The GCU Policy & Development Officer also noted that student panel members get paid £250 per event they participate in.

- ***Department Rep Email Accounts***

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator noted that they had received an unusually high volume of department rep email account password reset requests over the last couple of weeks. The Academic Rep Co-ordinator explained that they could not reset passwords themselves and had to forward on the requests for action. The Academic Rep Co-ordinator also explained that the person who normally deals with resetting the passwords is currently away on maternity leave and is being covered by another individual in the interim, and as such there would be a delay in processing password resets.

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator asked Department Reps to be mindful when selecting passwords for their Department Rep email accounts. The Academic Rep Co-ordinator also asked Department Reps remember that department rep email accounts can only be accessed via Office 365 and not Microsoft outlook.

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator noted that requests for resetting the passwords would be dealt with as soon as possible.

- ***School Board Availability***

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator asked those Department Reps present who had not yet replied back with details of their availability to attend School Board meetings to do so as soon as possible. The Academic Rep Coordinator noted that each of the Schools had asked the Students' Association for this information.

**The next meeting for S.A.G.E. is scheduled to take place on 20<sup>th</sup> November (13:00-14:30)**