



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

17th April 2019 (12:30 – 13:30)

Present:

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

Hannah Brown, Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department Rep

Catherine Koranchie, GSBS PGT Representative

Isah Jimoh, SCEBE PGT Representative

Waqas Javed, SCEBE Research Student Lead

James Shaw, Cyber Security & Networks Department Rep

Rebecca Fernie, Civil Engineering & Environmental Management

Jennifer Donnelly, Psychology Department Rep

Lauren MacLean, Economics & Law Department Rep

Apologies:

Rachel Simpson, Student President

Annelysse Jorgenson, SHLS Research Student Lead

Maria Nagy, Social Work Department Rep

Craig Davidson, Nursing & Community Health Department Rep

Susan Docherty, Mature & Part-time Students' Officer

Sophie Robinson, Vision Sciences Department Rep

Ramzy Abou- Zeid, Mechanical Engineering Department Rep

Dimitrios Maroulis, Biology & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep

John Kim Flores, Finance, Accounting & Risk Department Rep

Absent:

Rebeka Luzaityte, Media & Journalism Department Rep

Bernadette Prickett, Computing Department Rep

Heather Son, Management & Human Resource Management Department Rep

Emma Dunnett, Physiotherapy & Paramedicine Department Rep

Kirsten Stewart, Podiatry & Radiography Department Rep

Aliisa Pulkkinen, Applied Computer Games Department Rep

Naomi Hollis, Fashion, Marketing, Tourism & Events Department Re

Nahida Akter, SHLS PGT Representative

Michael Marshall, GSBS Research Student Lead

Tara Campbell, International Students' Officer

In Attendance:

Eilidh Fulton, VP SCEBE
Yetunde Ogedengbe, VP SHLS
Lesley McAleavy, GCU Policy & Development Officer
Paul Stalker, Academic Rep Co-ordinator (**Clerk**)
Sara MacLean, Student Voice Team Leader

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Approval of S.A.G.E. Minutes (13/03/2019)

The chair made reference to the minutes of the previous S.A.G.E. meeting (13/03/2019) 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 they had been working with the University to get students involved in the ELIR Consultation and the 2030 Strategy. The VP SCEBE also noted that they had been promoting the Department Reps recruitment process.

The VP SCEBE noted that they were currently looking to re-schedule the School Summit that was due to take place this trimester to sometime in trimester A of the 2019-20 academic year.

- *VP SHLS Update*

The VP SHLS noted that the Students' Association won the Shaping the Curriculum award in this year's Student Engagement Awards. The VP SHLS explained that the Student Engagement Awards are run by sparqs. The VP SHLS also explained that the award had been won for around, a project that they had led; embedding Intercultural Skills into the curriculum.

- *VP GSBS Update*

The VP GSBS noted that in addition to attending SCEBE School Board meetings they had attended both the NUS Scotland and NUS UK national conferences as well as sparqs' Student

Engagement Awards event. The VP GSBS also noted that they had been promoting the Department Reps recruitment process.

3. Academic Quality & Development Update

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

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 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 noted that a preliminary analysis of the feedback from these events and activities had highlighted that both students and staff feel that support and the campus are examples of what is good and being done well. The GCU Policy & Development Officer also noted that a preliminary analysis of the feedback highlighted that staff members feel that the Common Good is an example of what is good and being done well and that timetabling was an area for further development.

One member noted that they liked the open door policy at GCU. Another participant noted that they like the compact campus at GCU.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer explained that over the coming weeks the University would be drafting a report summering the feedback collected. The GCU Policy & Development Officer asked those present if they had any feedback they wanted to either pass on their feedback using the ELIR email address or to getting in touch with one of the Full Time Officers.

4. Graduation Fees

The VP SCEBE noted that the Students' Association had been in discussions with the University about graduation fees since January. The VP SCEBE also noted that the results of recent poll the students Association ran about graduation fees indicated that students were willing to sacrifice the experience over the cost and that the Students' Association will be campaigning for the university to abolish graduation fees.

The VP SCEBE explained that the University were currently looking into how it could reduce its graduation fees for students. The VP SCEBE also explained that although the Students' Association would welcome and support any steps to reduce graduation fees it would not

stop the Students' Association from continuing to campaign for for them to be completely abolished.

The VP GSBS noted that most of the Graduation fee was to cover the cost of hiring external spaces to hold the graduation events in. The VP SCEBE explained that GCU was the only university in Glasgow that had to rent a space for graduation ceremonies and that the other university's in Glasgow had buildings on their own campuses that could accommodate the numbers for large graduation ceremonies. The VP SCEBE also explained that a number of other universities in Scotland also have to rent space off campus for their graduation ceremonies.

One member questioned whether any of the graduations were free among the other universities in Scotland who have to rent a space off campus. The VP GSBS noted that they believed at Edinburgh Napier's tickets were free for the students graduating but that a ticket charge was in place for any guests who wished to attend.

One member noted that they disliked the fact that you had to pay in order to graduate. The member also noted that the graduating experience to them was more about celebrating with friends and family than the ceremony event itself and explained as such that they would rather have a lower key event that was free.

The VP GSBS noted that last year's Full Time Officer team had worked to get the University to reduce its £50 graduating in abstention fee by half for this year.

GSBS PGT Student Representative noted that international students have to go home before they graduate and that for many individuals it was too costly to come back to graduate.

5. Teaching Awards

The VP SCEBE noted that nominations for this year's Teaching Awards closed last Thursday, 11th April. The VP SCEBE also noted that in this year Teaching Awards a total of 447 nominations from 243 students was received, with 169 GCU staff members receiving a nomination.

The VP SCEBE noted that they had managed to secure £1050 of funding from the Glasgow based academic schools to spend on reward and recognition events and activities for this year's Teaching Awards. The VP SCEBE explained that thus funding will allow the Students' Association to refresh the it's award ceremony event as well as to print nominee posters and provide each nominee with a limited edition Teaching Awards mug.

The VP SCEBE highlighted that they were still needing lead reps to come forward volunteer to sit on the Teaching Awards short-listing panels that will be taking place between Tuesday 23rd April and Friday 26th April. The VP SCEBE explained that one student rep from each School was needed for each short-listing panel and that not enough individuals had come forward yet for each panel. The VP SCEBE asked those who had not yet completed the Doodle Poll with their availability that was sent out by the Academic Rep Coordinator to do so by 10am tomorrow morning (Thursday 18th April).

6. Spring 2019 Academic Rep Gathering

The VP GSBS thanked those members who attended and took part in the Spring 2019 Academic Rep Gathering. The VP GSBS asked if anyone had any feedback about the gathering event.

One member noted that they felt that the Academic Rep gathering events had got better and that the events that took place this year and last year had been better than ones that took place in previous years.

One member noted that they liked the School Networking Lunch session at the Academic Rep Gathering as it provided a less formal environment to meet GCU staff members in their School.

A number of members noted that they were unable to attend the Spring Academic Rep Gathering. One member noted that they really wanted to attend the event but they couldn't because they had classes scheduled at the same time. Another member noted that they could not attend due to it being the week their assessments were due.

The Academic Rep Coordinator asked those present if holding the Spring Academic Rep Gathering earlier in February or March would be better than April. A number of members indicated that they felt that would be a better time of year to hold the event.

7. AOCB

- 2019-20 Department Rep Recruitment

The Academic Rep Coordinator noted that applications for the 2019-20 academic year Department Reps open on Monday 8th April 2019. The Academic Rep Coordinator explained that any current Department Rep interested in continuing their role during the 2019-20 academic year need to apply again before applications close at noon on Thursday 2nd May 2019.