



Ethical & Environmental Committee

30th November 2017 (14:00 – 15:00) in NH209

Present:

Caitlin Reid, E&E Officer (**Chair**)
Rachel Simpson, VP GSBS

In Attendance:

Gary Kyle, Student Rep Assistant (**Clerk**)

E&E Officer thanked everyone for coming to the first meeting of the Ethical & Environmental (E&E) Committee in 2017/18. The purpose of this committee, as a sub-committee of Student Voice, is to discuss the ongoing progress of the student-led E&E campaign.

1. “Green Impact” Progress

VP GSBS proposed that the committee methodically go through each criterion of this year’s “Green Impact” workbook and discuss the current progress of the campaign and future steps to take. This was agreed.

For KN001 (*The union has carried out relevant [primary research] amongst its students to inform its sustainability work, and has published the findings*), the E&E Officer (Caitlin Reid), FTO Policy Lead (Rachel Simpson), and staff support (Gary Kyle) have previously held discussions regarding last year’s “Big Green Survey” and, having reviewed the data from that, tailored a version for this year called the “Wee Green Survey”. This survey was made available for students to complete from Monday 13th November 2017. Currently, 17 individuals have completed the survey but the survey is still ongoing and therefore results have yet to be published.

<p>ACTION: Decide when to close the “Wee Green Survey” and publish results via GCU Students’ Association website.</p>
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For KN002 (*The union has proactively promoted the annual national [NUS sustainability skills survey], taking place in Oct 2017, amongst its students to contribute a good number of*

respondents, and has shared the results), the committee engaged in promoting the NUS survey and, despite missing the first week of the three-week timeframe, a total number of 208 respondents completed the survey. This is a significant increase from last year's total of 44 respondents and, from the UK-wide data received from NUS; Glasgow Caledonian University was the second highest Scottish institution for response rates and the 18th highest institution for response rates across the UK. The results are not yet published but this will be looked into by the Student Rep Assistant. Additionally, E&E Officer will write a website article to promote the results.

ACTION: Student Rep Assistant to publish the NUS Sustainability Skills Survey 2017 results via GCU Students' Association website.

ACTION: E&E Officer to write brief website article regarding survey results that will be published.

For LD001 (*The union has one or more elected representative that proactively champions sustainability*), that is achieved by having the E&E Officer in the elected post since the start of 2017/18 academic year.

For LD002 (*The union has an active and productive sustainability committee or working group*), despite the delay in having the committee set up due to trying to encourage others to join prior to establishing a constituted meeting, this committee has and remains to be active and promoting positive changes irrespective of member numbers. The committee has also established an active social media presence and regularly promotes the committee so as to encourage new participants. VP GSBS pointed out that despite being a constituted committee; there is no outlined remit within GCU Students' Association by-laws as the remit is to be developed at the first E&E committee meeting. Therefore, a proposed remit will be presented at the next committee meeting following on from the discussions that took place at this meeting.

ACTION: VP GSBS to draft a remit policy for the E&E committee that will be presented at next meeting.

For LD003 (*There is demonstrable commitment to sustainability from one of more senior member of staff in the union*), there was some uncertainty raised as to whether this meant contracted, managerial staff within GCU Students' Association or whether an FTO (as a Trustee) would qualify for this. Clarification will be sought and management will be contacted by VP GSBS.

ACTION: VP GSBS to contact GCU Students' Association senior management team.

For LD004 (*Sustainability is substantively included in the union's strategic plan*), this is true in regards to "The Bigger Plan" but, as indicated in last year's Green Impact audit, it is only referenced in one specific section. However, this cannot be amended until 2020.

For LD005 (*The union has proactively and constructively engaged senior institutional leaders and/or trustees in sustainability, resulting in positive outputs*), VP GSBS is a trustee as part of her FTO position. Additionally, she offered to make a Trustee Info Session regarding sustainability to engage/inform fellow trustees. If this is unsuccessful, VP GSBS said that she would table sustainability as an agenda point at the next Trustee Board meeting.

ACTION: VP GSBS to organise Trustee Info Session and/or raise sustainability at Trustee Board meeting.

For LD006 (*The institution substantively refers to sustainability in their strategic plan and/or teaching and learning plan and/or graduate attributes*), the Student Rep Assistant pointed out that the university does make reference to sustainability within the "GCU Strategy 2020 – Goal 2: Enriching cities and communities through research" and indirectly through its other goals. There is also reference made within graduate attributes.

For PA001 (*The union's website contains information on what the union is doing on sustainability, and how students can get involved. The information is easy to find, up to date and engaging*), the E&E Officer stated that it could be improved by adding her photograph to the relevant website page (similar to other Officer roles) to create a more visual impact/presence. The Student Rep Assistant also takes screenshots of the relevant webpages every 4-6 weeks to record the ongoing changes. VP GSBS also pointed out that whenever she posts social media posts regarding E&E, part of the website will display these posts as a live news feed.

ACTION: Student Rep Assistant to upload photo of E&E Officer onto the GCU Students' Association website.

For PA002 (*The union adequately resources its sustainability work*), VP GSBS indicated that GCU Students' Association has ensured there is a dedicated student Officer elected for E&E purposes, FTO Policy leads assigned and dedicated staff support. Additionally, the union provides an annual fund with opportunities to apply for additional campaign funding if necessary. Finally, it was pointed out that the union regularly communicates with the university and liaises with them on campaigns, policies, etc. and therefore there are numerous resources utilised.

For PA003 (*The union actively supports staff in professional development on sustainability*), the Student Rep Assistant and another GCU Students' Association member of staff attended

an external event on 22nd November 2017 where part of the day focused on embedding sustainability within the academic curriculum. The Student Rep Assistant volunteered to write a brief paper about the key points from this event to present at the next meeting.

ACTION: Student Rep Assistant to summarise professional development and present paper at next E&E meeting.

For PA004 (*The union has successfully engaged with its clubs, societies, and other student networks on sustainability and the UN*), VP GSBS volunteered to write a blog containing relevant information on sustainability and circulate this to every club/society by the end of Trimester A and perhaps again in Trimester B. Additionally, the university has offered to provide money for student-led clubs/societies who actively demonstrate an increase in sustainability awareness through events or promotions, etc.

For PA005 (*The union is actively working in partnership with the institution to attain and/or retain one or more external sustainability accreditation programme or award*), the Student Rep Assistant will explore additional awards that could be pursued and liaise with the university to see if there are any plans regarding further accreditation or retention.

ACTION: Student Rep Assistant to explore additional accreditation opportunities.

For PA008 (*The union has one or more active sustainability society or club*), the Student Rep Assistant confirmed that there is at least one at the London campus. The E&E Officer made reference to a cycling club and whilst it may not explicitly refer to sustainability, its entire concept is one of sustainability as cycling helps reduce carbon emissions, etc. VP GSBS will obtain a list of active clubs/societies.

ACTION: VP GSBS to obtain a list of active clubs/societies for sustainability opportunities.

For PA009 (*Sustainability is reference in the job descriptions of all new staff*), the Student Rep Assistant confirmed that it was certainly mentioned within his job description when the vacancy was advertised and that other job descriptions could be easily checked for this information.

For PA010 (*The union has one or more active policy commitment relating to sustainability, passed within the last three years, and has published it*), current policies can be checked to see when they were initially implemented. Additionally, VP GSBS will draft a policy for the E&E committee to be presented at the next meeting alongside the drafted remit.

ACTION: VP GSBS to draft policy for next E&E committee meeting.

For OC001 (*The union has collaborated with, or supported, another students' union (FE or HE) on sustainability*), it was pointed out that former GCU Students' Association staff were now employed by neighbouring institution's student unions (University of Glasgow and City of Glasgow College) and that it may be beneficial to reach out to these organisations and ask if we could potentially collaborate with them on sustainability work. Therefore, the Student Rep Assistant will contact these organisations to see if they would be interested.

ACTION: Student Rep Assistant to contact the Students' Associations for both City of Glasgow College and the University of Glasgow regarding potentially collaborating on sustainability work.

2. "Wee Green Survey" Update

As this was covered under agenda point 1 ("Green Impact" Progress), this was not discussed in any further detail.

3. "Swap Shop" Proposal

The university has approached VP GSBS to discuss a "Swap Shop" proposal which is potentially setting up a stall where students can donate items for other items (similar to a free-cycling initiative) to cut down on waste. It was noted that VP SHLS has been working on establishing a system, similar to one run at the University of Strathclyde, for international students to hand items in when they are graduating from university so that new international students can receive items (thereby reducing air miles/emissions). VP GSBS said that this "Swap Shop" proposal is easier/faster to implement and could be a good way of establishing sustainability which could later be expanded upon with additional proposals – such as the work that VP SHLS is working on.

E&E Officer said that this was a good idea and, if successful, it might be worth considering an additional collection point at Caledonian Court (Halls of Residence) as this would be a convenient drop-off point for students who are living in the student accommodation.

A meeting will take place on 4th December 2017 with the university's sustainability lead to discuss this proposal in more detail.

ACTION: VP GSBS and E&E Officer to meet with university staff to discuss "Swap Shop" proposal further and report back at the next E&E committee meeting.

4. “Glasgow Goes Green” Proposal

Societies that put on exceptional events may have the opportunity to participate in “Glasgow Goes Green” which is a sustainability festival that happens across all Glasgow colleges and universities in February 2018.

A meeting will take place on 4th December 2017 with the university’s sustainability lead to discuss this proposal in more detail and will then be presented at the next Executive Committee on 12th December 2017 by VP GSBS. The E&E Committee will be updated about this at the next committee meeting.

ACTION: VP GSBS to discuss this “Glasgow Goes Green” proposal with university staff and Executive Committee and report back at the next E&E committee meeting.

5. Sewing Workshops Proposal

VP GSBS has looked into receiving an update regarding setting up sewing workshops but there has been no further progress. As this ties into one of VP GSBS’ FTO objectives, she will continue to investigate this further.

ACTION: VP GSBS to continue looking into sewing workshop provision.

6. AOCB

- *Staff Office Plants Posters*

A poster, designed by the E&E Officer, had been put on display in the GCU Students’ Association staff kitchen and the print room with the aim of encouraging staff to get small desk plants. Additionally, VP GSBS has bought small desk plants for her office as a visual representation of promoting sustainability.

- *Expanding Committee Membership*

The Student Rep Assistant suggested extending an invitation to the university’s sustainability lead to sit on GCU Students’ Association’s E&E committee (similar to the GCU Policy and Development Officer who sits on the S.A.G.E. committee). This was agreed and an invitation will be sent out for the next committee meeting.

ACTION: Clerk to invite GCU’s sustainability lead to next E&E committee meeting.

Additionally, VP GSBS suggested creating constituted places for a Societies representative and a Sports representative; a way of ensuring that sustainability is embedded within both. There was also a suggestion of inviting the two student-led media groups also.

- *E&E Officer Availability in Trimester B*

As part of her studies, the E&E Officer is on placement from 29th January 2018 until 11th May 2018 and therefore will not be on campus at all during Trimester B. She is happy to help as much as she can via online work (blogs, e-mails, social media, website, etc.) but it might be worthwhile considering an E&E Depute Officer who can act as the physical representative in her absence.

The next meeting for the Ethical & Environmental Committee is scheduled to take place on 13th December (15:30-17:00)