

Committee Title	Student Voice
Date of Meeting	11 th February 2019
Item Number and Title/Subject	Establishment of a Student Mental Health Representation Group and Officer
Paper Presenter	Rachel Simpson, Student President
Brief Summary of Issues/Topic	<p>The proposal is outlined in more detail in paper below – but Student Voice are asked to approve the creation of a Representation Officer known as the Student Mental Health Officer and a representation group known as the Student Mental Health Representation Group as proposed in the recommendations below.</p> <p><i>Student Mental Health Officer</i></p> <p>The Student Mental Health Officer is responsible for ensuring that student's mental health and wellbeing at GCU is effectively and legitimately represented. The Student mental Health Officer must be a registered GCU student.</p> <p>Remit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To ensure the effective and legitimate representation of students mental health and wellbeing to the university and externally on their student experience, working as appropriate with the Executive Committee and Students' Association Staff. b) To ensure the current and future needs of student wellbeing and mental health are met through a balance of representative work and market research and having responsibility for putting forward the democratically decided views and policies of the Students' Association. This will involve running at least one campaign each year where students needs have been identified. c) To work in partnership with NUS on informing GCU students on any relevant campaigns and attend and help to organise delegations to any relevant conferences. d) To ensure the Students' Association has strong connections with our students and that the Students' Association establishes new methods to encourage participation and that there is an overall high student satisfaction with the Students' Association.

	<p>e) The Student Mental Health Officer is a full member of Student Voice, the Equality and Diversity Committee and is the Chair of the Student Mental Health Group for which they will help recruit members each year.</p> <p><i>Student Mental Health Representation Group</i> Student Mental Health Representation Group Composition: Student Mental Health Officer (Chair) Students from each Academic School Full time Officer with the policy lead for GCU Wellbeing (Vice-Chair)</p> <p>Remit:</p> <p>a) It is the responsibility of the Student Mental Health Representation Group to represent the general interests of student wellbeing and mental health and help develop Students' Association policy.</p> <p>b) Responsible for running campaigns on student wellbeing and mental health.</p> <p>c) Four statutory meetings will be held throughout the academic sessions; two in Trimester 1 and two in Trimester 2.</p> <p>d) The group will have two sub-committees which lead on two individual projects relating to student mental health, (1) The Student Mental Health Agreement Working Group and (2) The Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Working Group.</p>							
Recommendation(s)	Information			Discussion			Approval	X
	<p>Student Voice are asked to approve:</p> <p>1. The creation of a Student Mental Health representation group within the By-Laws within section 3.6.8</p> <p>2. The creation of a Student Voice Officer, with their remit being noted above. This remit is in line with others in section 3.5 of the By-Laws.</p> <p>3. For the Student Mental Health Representation Officer to become a full member of Student Voice and the Equality and Diversity Committee.</p>							
Who have you consulted when developing the paper?	<p>Student Proposer of initial idea,</p> <p>Executive Committee,</p> <p>Equality and Diversity Committee,</p>							

	SAGE.					
Staff/Student Protocol	Yes	X	No		N/A	
Will any decision approved directly affect the work of staff?	Yes, still to consult staff with the impact.					
Should the paper be submitted to any other committee following its consideration/approval at this meeting?	Student Mental Health Agreement Working Group, Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Working Group,					
If yes, please state the committee and proposed date of submission.						

Background to proposal

On the 4th meeting of Student Voice in 2016/17 (on the 20th of March, 2017) the following idea was proposed and passed.

“14.2 Create a liberation group around mental health (Jonnie England)”

This idea is to create a new Liberation Group centred around people with mental health disorders/conditions and creating an environment where they can come together to discuss how this affects their student experience and come up with actionable ideas to help them get the most out of their student experience. Discussions then focussed on what NUS currently do in relation to liberation groups and their national model which all unions follow and what is the best way forward for the group. (F: 11 A:1 Ab:11).

Student Voice voted to mandate the FTOs to look into creating a support group for students with mental health issues similar to Liberation Groups.”

Throughout my term in office last year, I worked on establishing the first Student Mental Health Agreement which brings together the University and Students’ Association to work to support student Mental Health. The partnership was presented to Student Voice on two occasions, and the Associations Equality and Diversity Committee for information and input. The document was then submitted to NUS in June 2018, and I presented at NUS’s National Think Positive Conference.

In the agreement the University and Students’ Association implemented three peer support networks for students to openly speak about their experienced of mental health, and gain a supportive network within a facilitated environment.

Proposal

Although this resolves the above action, discussions with the proposer lead to conversations around a sustainable group, which could campaign, on enhancing Student Mental Wellbeing, and Mental Health, as well as help develop relevant documents and policies within the Association. As such, the proposal to Student Voice now is to establish a Student Mental Health Officer, and Student Mental Health Representation Group within the Students’ Association. The details for this are outlined below;

Student Mental Health Officer

The Student Mental Health Officer is responsible for ensuring that student’s mental health and wellbeing at GCU is effectively and legitimately represented. The Student mental Health Officer must be a registered GCU student.

Remit:

- f) To ensure the effective and legitimate representation of students mental health and wellbeing to the university and externally on their student experience, working as appropriate with the Executive Committee and Students' Association Staff.
- g) To ensure the current and future needs of student wellbeing and mental health are met through a balance of representative work and market research and having responsibility for putting forward the democratically decided views and policies of the Students' Association. This will involve running at least one campaign each year where students needs have been identified.
- h) To work in partnership with NUS on informing GCU students on any relevant campaigns and attend and help to organise delegations to any relevant conferences.
- i) To ensure the Students' Association has strong connections with our students and that the Students' Association establishes new methods to encourage participation and that there is an overall high student satisfaction with the Students' Association.
- j) The Student Mental Health Officer is a full member of Student Voice, the Equality and Diversity Committee and is the Chair of the Student Mental Health Group for which they will help recruit members each year.

Student Mental Health Representation Group

Student Mental Health Representation Group Composition:

Student Mental Health Officer (Chair)

Students from each Academic School

Full time Officer with the policy lead for GCU Wellbeing (Vice-Chair)

Remit:

- a) It is the responsibility of the Student Mental Health Representation Group to represent the general interests of student wellbeing and mental health and help develop Students' Association policy.
- b) Responsible for running campaigns on student wellbeing and mental health.
- c) Four statutory meetings will be held throughout the academic sessions; two in Trimester 1 and two in Trimester 2.
- d) The group will have two sub-committees which lead on two individual projects relating to student mental health, (1) The Student Mental Health Agreement Working Group and (2) The Healthy Body, Healthy Mind Working Group.

Illustration 1 – Proposed Changes to Governance Structure

Governance and Democracy Structure

