

## **Student Action Group for Engagement (SAGE)**

### **Meeting 3 Minutes**

**8/2/17, 2pm, NH209 (Students' Association Building)**

<b><u>Apologies</u></b>	Tamar Everson (CCIS Officer), Scott Buchanan (LEAR Officer), Bolutife Oyemomi (SEBE RSL), Caroline Fleeting (SSMJ Officer), Jen Broadhurst (GSBS RSL), Abhishek Mandal (SHLS RSL)
<b><u>Present</u></b>	Kevin Campbell (VP SHLS & Chair), Lesley McAleavy (Policy and Development Officer), Kanayo Iken (SHLS PGT Officer), Charlie Beaumont (GSBS PGT Officer), Godswill Azubuike (SEBE PGT Officer), Amir Shafiq (BM Officer), Brendan Owen (Life Sciences Officer)
<b><u>Absent</u></b>	Romina Arefin (E Officer), Robyn Moffat-Wall (PSWAHS Officer), Linda Cupples (NCH Officer), Gil McComb (C+S Officer)
<b><u>In Attendance</u></b>	Aimee Cuthbert (SVC & Clerk), Karen McFarlane (KMCF), Frank Brown (FB), Lauren Ramage (Student President)

#### **1) Apologies**

As above

#### **2) Approval of previous meeting minutes**

SAGE was then asked by the Chair to approve the minutes from the previous meetings.

**For – 6, Against – 0, Abstain – 0.**

The minutes for the previous meeting were unanimously approved and will be presented to Student Voice.

#### **3) Common Good Curriculum Update**

KMcF and FB requested that this agenda item be moved up from item 5 as they needed to leave early for another meeting. With no objections the agenda item was moved up.

##### **Common Good Award Consultation**

FB explained to the committee the background of the Common Good Award and asked members to look at the mechanisms of the two different stages of the award then give feedback on this. It was explained the paper presented to SAGE was part of a bigger paper and that the award would sit within the Work Experience Hub in future.

Life Sciences Officer asked questions around what would need to happen after students received badged to get the Common Good Award, if the threshold of badges had been

decided and if students had to get all 4 badges or if they could get 2 or 3 and demonstrate the impact of the activity to get these badges. FB said that the verification panel would decide about the award once badges had been obtained as students would need to provide evidence to get badges and would be further asked about the impact of their activity to get the Common Good Award and that students could get a minimum of 3 badges but that flexibility should be considered. LMCA agreed with this statement and that the university needed to consider where and how the award could be flexible.

GSBS PGT Officer then asked if volunteering outside the university would be considered. This was confirmed by FB but Life Sciences Officer felt that a discussion with externals would need to happen on how to demonstrate badges had been achieved as it would be more difficult to identify than internal activity. FB stated he was conscious of this at the beginning but that resources would be created for external organisation to support this and that a level of trust would need to be given to other organisation as they would need to be confident that students have achieved what is needed for badges. Life Sciences Officer suggested that a tick list should also be created to support external organisations which FB agreed with.

GSBS PGT Officer also asked how the award would apply to PGT students and how they could get involved during their one year at GCU. FB answered that a discussion around PGT and Direct Entry students had happened and that there would be some things that they would not have control over so previous activity before coming to GCU could be considered. FB also acknowledges that students beginning at year 1 were at an advantage but as the award can be achieved over 2 trimesters he felt this could be doable.

Life Sciences Officer asked how previous experience would be regulated as experiences would differ and how back the panel would consider. FB stated that students would need to provide evidence to obtain any badge and that this would need to be verified and rationalised within attributes guidance and it would be the same process for all students. Life Sciences Officer then asked if those joining GCU in year two could also claim activity before university.

At this point LMCA stated that the university had come across the same questions that SAGE were asking and that processes were not set in stone and that the purpose of bringing this to the committee was to run the concept past SAGE and in the future student discussion groups would be created to seek answers to questions posed. If students buy into the concept then the university will work on it. FB concurred and asked for SAGE's assistance in populating workshops.

LMCA then asked SAGE members if they felt students would engage with the activity. Life Sciences Officer felt that you would engage students already involved in the Student Leaders Programme or Class Reps but to engage other students it would be good to compare it to the Saltire Award as the set up was similar so it could be successful. Business and Management Officer suggested that students would need to know the tangible benefit of the award to they will get involved as well as marketing appropriately. GSBS PGT Officer was unsure of the uptake for PGT students due to the time commitments and minimum hours

needed so the university would need something to show the high level of award but not the big amount of time spent so it does not impact the integrity of the award.

Life Sciences Officer asked if staff could go for the award but FB stated it was primarily a student focus. The Chair then asked for discussions to draw to a close as a considerable amount of time had been spent on this item. The Chair encouraged SAGE member to contact FB directly with any more questions and LMcA said that SAGE members would be invited to workshops when they had been organised.

#### **Common Good Curriculum Evaluation**

KMcF explained to SAGE she was currently evaluating the impact of activities within the university which included the Common Good Curriculum to look at how the attributes were being delivered in the curriculum as well as co and extra-curricular activities. Staff had been consulted and now student opinion would be needed to see if students have seen where attributes are being delivered and whether the university can market this on how subjects are taught and assessed. A handout of a questionnaire was then given to students that would form basis of a focus group. KMcf requested SAGE's advice on whether a focus group would work and how to get students involved in focus groups.

Life Sciences Officer suggested that numbers of 20-30 students for 40 minutes discussion would bring in numbers but maybe not as much as a questionnaire would and that it would also depend on information given to students beforehand. GSBS PGT Officer echoed this point and said if they got students through the door they would talk for ages so maybe 40 minutes would be too small. Also suggested was working an evaluation of the Common Good Curriculum into Module Evaluation Questionnaires.

KMcF said introducing a question into MEQ's was discussed and there was a reluctance to put more pressure on staff, however when programmes need to be re-approved the attributes need to be evidenced. KMcf felt if she got people in to discuss the Common Good Curriculum it would be valuable and worthwhile so would try workshops and see what can be done. Life Sciences Officer felt that it might be worthwhile and if staff and select students said it was hard to identify then more work would need to be done. KMcf agreed with this point as there seemed to be a general lack of awareness and confusion around the curriculum.

LMcA thanked SAGE for their input and reiterated that all this discussion was in the early stages so a lot was being looked into so SAGE would be kept informed.

*At this point FB and KMcf left the meeting.*

#### **4) Student Partnership Agreement Update**

The Chair presented to SAGE the current updated version of the GCU Community Partnership Agreement. He remarked that some corporate jargon was to be removed, design was to be updated as well as making the leaflet more student friendly but was keen to get members' feedback. For members unfamiliar, the Chair also gave background on the work on the partnership agreement.

Life Sciences Officer remarked the front was good but that the inlay was a lot of writing and information overload which the Chair and LMCA agreed with, stating text would be reduced and images would be added wherever possible. Life Sciences Officer also asked whether there would be a web page of PDF as this would dictate what changed needed to be made. The Chair that there would be a section on the university website. Life Sciences Officer suggested there should be a section on the Students' Association website and possibly its own tab with links to all relevant material and avoiding having one solid page.

SEBE PGT Officer suggested for each principle there should be a picture to describe each one. LMCA thought this idea would be good and that the aim was to bring the agreement to life by having examples of what each principle means so that it would be a living site and not static. GSBS PGT Officer liked the words in a black box as this was a good springboard to what they are about and that testimonials should be included as well as the leaflet being easy to download so it can be referred to. LMCA liked this idea as the plan was to use the leaflet as an incentive for staff and students to visit the web pages which meant content could be easy to change year on year.

*At this point the Student President joined the meeting.*

#### **5) On Your Marks Get Set Feedback Campaign**

Student President updated SAGE on the current campaign she was running was to measure students' expectations versus the reality of assessment feedback. The campaign had been well engaged with at present with around 600 responses and that the Full Time Officer team were encouraging students to fill out their experiences on assessment, coursework and exam feedback either on postcards or online. The next step of the campaign would be to have a focus group at the Class Rep Gathering followed by a survey for staff.

Life Sciences Officer asked if students could fill in multiple boxes and how information was being collected. Student President that the Full Time Officer would hand postcards to students and either collect them as soon as they were filled out or to hand back into the Students' Association at the Welcome Desk.

SHLS PGT Officer asked what the deadline was for students to give their views. Student President answered it was initially that Friday (10/2/17) but as the initial target had been exceeded this may be extended.

The Clerk encouraged SAGE members to take postcards away and encourage Class Reps to complete as well as completing postcards themselves.

*At this point the Student President left the meeting.*

#### **6) Student Engagement in Quality Enhancement Update**

LMCA provided a further update on this agenda item by stating the university would be picking panels over the next month to pilot the scheme and train School Officers to be panel members then gather feedback which would be evaluated over the summer so all processes would be in place for 2017/18. Ideally student panel members would be from the same

school but a different department. LMCA was currently working with the Chair and Clerk to figure out how this would be implemented into School Officer induction but SAGE members would be invited to take part and would be kept in the loop.

Life Sciences remarked that in the minutes for the previous meeting that a mock panel had been suggested and whether this could be done. LMCA felt this may not be able to be done in reality and this came from sparqs guidance but would look into other ways students can be supported as well as looking at the experience.

#### **7) Assessment Methods Campaign Update**

The Chair updated SAGE on his campaign that he had met with level 3 Learning Disability Nursing staff about an assessment that students had helped design to see how they achieved this and that he would meet with the newly established Assessment and Feedback Working Group to implement choice of formative assessment in the interprofessional module.

Life Sciences Officer asked about how choosing assessments would impact on professional body accreditation which affected a lot of students in the School of Health and Life Sciences. The Chair agreed this would be a challenge but that the regulations from the Nursing and Midwifery Council had been examined and Nursing would be explored as this would be the biggest challenge.

#### **8) Teaching Awards**

Due to the meeting over running The Chair asked for this item to be pushed to the following SAGE meeting

#### **9) AOCB**

No AOCB was brought up by any SAGE members.

#### **10) Date of Next Meeting – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 1pm, NH209**

*Meeting adjourned at 3.05pm*