



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

16th December 2020 (13:00 – 14:30)

Present:

Adil Rahoo, VP GSBS (**Chair**)

Ewan Batty, Civil Engineering & Environmental Management Department Rep

Laura Clark, Cyber Security & Networks Department Rep

Muhammad Ayub, Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department Rep

Zalha Abasi, Economics & Law Department Rep

Yonca Goecer, Fashion, Marketing, Tourism & Events Department Rep

Sarina Vlaytchev, Media & Journalism Department Rep

Catherine Mackie, Social Sciences Department Rep

Mary Welsh, Occupational Therapy, Human Nutrition & Dietetics Department Rep

Fiona Reed, Psychology Department Rep

Anthony Rodrick, SCEBE Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep

Connor Davidson, SHLS Postgraduate Taught Rep (PGT) Rep

Apologies:

Rob Eadie, Applied Computer Games Department Rep

Ike Odukudu, Computing Department Rep

Alexander Van De Rose, Biological & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep

Hannah Einarson, Vision Sciences Department Rep

Absent:

Nabila Khan, Applied Science Department Rep

Harrison Elue, Construction & Surveying Department Rep

Yasmin Sweeney, Mechanical Engineering Department Rep

Nikolay Naydenov, Finance, Accounting & Risk Department Rep

Elizabeth Shaw, Management & Human Resource Management Department Rep

Kimberley Brown, Nursing & Community Health Department Rep

Louise Dunn, Physiotherapy & Paramedicine Department Rep

Georgina Smith, Podiatry & Radiography Department Rep

Louise Thompson, Social Work Department Rep

Daneyal Mirza, GSBS Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep

In Attendance:

Susan Docherty, Student President

Zoe Nicholson, Vice President SCEBE

Tabitha Nyariki, Vice President SHLS

Stephanie Pitticas, GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions

Sara MacLean, Student Voice Team Leader

Scarlett Hooper, Students' Association Coordinator (GCU London)

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

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Approval of S.A.G.E. Minutes (21/10/2020)

The chair made reference to the minutes of the previous S.A.G.E. meeting (21/10/2020) 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 Officers Update**- Student President**

The Student President noted that in addition to attending Academic Policy & Practice Committee meetings that they had been lobbying the University at the weekly Safe Return to Campus meetings to increase the number of study spaces available on campus for students. The Student President also noted that they had been working with the University on the GCU 2030 strategy.

- VP SCEBE Update

The VP SCEBE noted that in addition to attending SCEBE School Board meetings they had attended the tri-weekly SCEBE senior management team meetings. The VP SCEBE also noted that they had held a session at the Autumn Academic Gathering that gave SCEBE academic reps within an opportunity to network with their Dean and Associate Dean of Learning, Teaching & Quality (ADLTQ).

- VP SHLS Update

The VP SHSL noted that in addition to working with the University on trying to address the negative impact Covid-19 was having on SHLS students they had been meeting with the University to discuss diversifying the curriculum. The VP SHLS also noted that they had held a session at the Autumn Academic Gathering that gave SHLS academic reps within an opportunity to network with their Vice-Dean.

- ***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 meeting with the University to discuss implementing HEAR at GCU. The VP GSBS also noted that they had held a GSBS academic rep networking session at the Autumn Academic Gathering.

3. New English Language Qualifications

The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions explained that students from countries where English is not the majority native language were required to demonstrate their English proficiency by gaining an English language qualification recognised and accepted by GCU prior to the commencement of their programme.

The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions noted that the University was looking to expand the number of English language qualifications that students can use as evidence of their English proficiency by adding eight new qualifications to the list of English language qualifications recognised and accepted at GCU.

The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions explained that the eight English language qualifications the University was looking to add to its list of recognised and accepted qualifications were recognised and accepted by a number other universities in the UK as proof of English proficiency. The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions also explained that the University had in previous years received enquiries from prospective students about whether GCU recognised and accepted these eight English language qualifications as proof of English proficiency.

The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions asked members if they had any questions or feedback the adding of the eight new qualifications to the list of English language qualifications recognised and accepted at GCU.

The Student President noted that they felt that there currently wasn't enough language support for students during their studies and that the that University would need to focus on increasing and improving the language support to student during their studies if they were going to increase the number of English language qualifications it recognised and accepted. The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions noted that language support for students wasn't provided centrally but individually by the Schools. The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions also noted they were only actioned to review the list of English language qualifications recognised and accepted at GCU and not the language support available at GCU for students, but that they would feedback the Student President's comments.

One member asked if the eight English language qualifications the University was looking to add to its list of recognised and accepted qualifications could be used as proof of English

proficiency for all programmes of study at GCU. The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions noted that there were certain programmes, like Nursing, where only specific language courses were excepted as proof of English proficiency.

One member asked if the eight English language qualifications the University was looking to add to its list of recognised and accepted qualifications could be used as proof of English proficiency for UK visa applications. The GCU Director of Marketing, Recruitment & Admissions noted that the eight English language qualifications the University was looking to add to its list were recognised as proof of English proficiency by the UK Government.

4. Teaching Awards Campaign

The VP SCEBE noted that nominations for this academic year's Teaching Awards campaign launched on the 7th December.

The VP SCEBE explained that the Teaching Awards is GCU Students' Association's annual campaign to gather and share positive feedback about the learning experience at GCU. The VP SCEBE also explained that Teaching Awards are an opportunity for GCU students to thank and promote outstanding teaching and non-teaching staff members who have made a positive impact on their learning experience.

The VP SCEBE highlighted that there are six awards students can nominate staff members for; *Terrific Teaching*, *Fantastic Feedback*, *Creative Curriculum*, *Super Support (teaching staff)*, *Super Support (non-teaching staff)*, and *Sensational Supervision & Support*.

The VP SCEBE noted that Students can find out more about the award categories and nominate a GCU staff member by completing a nominations form online at www.gcustudents.co.uk/teachingawards. The VP SCEBE also noted that nominations for this year's Teaching Awards will close on Thursday 8th April 2021 at noon (12:00).

The VP SCEBE highlighted that the help of all academic lead reps would be needed to promote the Teaching Awards campaign to students. The VP SCEBE explained that they needed all S.A.G.E members to like and share Teaching Awards Facebook posts in order to help promote the awards to their fellow students. The VP SCEBE also explained that in addition to sharing and liking Teaching Awards social media posts, they need Department Reps and Postgraduate Taught Reps members to encourage all of their Class Reps to promote the Teaching Awards to the students that they represent as well as sitting the Teaching Awards short-listing panels.

The VP SCEBE noted that the Academic Rep Coordinator would be getting in touch with everyone in the new year with information and guidance on how they can encourage their Class Reps to promote the Teaching Awards to the students that they represent as well as about the Teaching Awards short-listing panels.

One member asked if Department Reps were allowed to nominate GCU staff members for a Teaching Award. The VP SCEBE confirmed that all current GCU students, including

Department Reps and Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Reps can nominate GCU staff members for a Teaching Award and encouraged all members present to do so.

5. Academic Quality & Development Update

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

The Student President explained that the Review Visit was successfully held on the week commencing the 16th November 2020. The Student President also explained that the Review Visit was undertaken by a QAA Scotland supported ELIR Review Team comprised of students and staff members from universities inside and outside Scotland.

The Student President noted that the ELIR Review Team had produced their outcome report containing their judgment on the effectiveness of GCU's arrangements for securing academic standards and enhancing the student learning experience.

The Student President explained that GCU had been judged by the ELIR Review Team to have effective arrangements for managing academic standards and the student learning experience, the highest level effectiveness that can be achieved in an ELIR.

The Student President highlighted that GCU received a total of six commendations from the ELIR Review Team, including commendations covering the University's Student Experience Action Plans and Student Partnership Agreement. The Student President also highlighted that the Student Action Group for Engagement (S.A.G.E) had been noted in the commendations as an example of effective partnership working.

The Student President noted that the University was currently looking at the ELIR Review Teams' recommendations on areas for development. The Student President also noted that the University would be asked to produce in a year's time a Follow-Up Report demonstrating the actions they have taken in response to the ELIR Team's recommendations on areas for development.

- *Trimester B Review & Approval Events*

The Academic Rep Coordinator noted that the University and Students' Association were currently looking for lead academic reps to step forward to be student panel members for three Enhancement-led Internal Subject Review (ELISR)/ Programme Review events taking place in January 2021.

The Academic Rep Coordinator explained that the three Enhancement-led Internal Subject Review ELISR/ Programme Review events would be held online between 9am and 4pm over the course of three days. The Academic Rep Coordinator also explained that student panel members would be required to undertake a certain amount of preparatory reading event in addition to attending all the required sessions of the ELISR/ Programme Review event

The Academic Rep Coordinator highlighted that student panel members would receive £880 for participating in an ELISR/ Programme Review event. The Academic Rep Coordinator also highlighted that no previous experience was necessary as training and support for participation would be provided by the University's Quality Assurance & Enhancement Department.

The Academic Rep Coordinator explained that in terms of eligibility lead academic reps could not sit as a student panel member on ELISR/ Programme Review event covering their own department. The Academic Rep Coordinator also explained that this paid opportunity was an optional extra and did not form part of their role as a Department Rep or Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep.

The Student President noted that during their time as the Mature & Part Time Students' Officer they had been a student panel member and that it had been a good experience. The Student President also noted that they would recommend this paid opportunity to student reps.

Both the VP GSBS and VP SHLS noted that being a student panel was a great way for Department Reps and Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Reps to see the process behind how changes are made to programmes.

The Academic Rep Coordinator asked those present if anyone was available and willing to be the student panel member for the Applied Computer Games ELISR/ Programme Review event taking place between Monday 18th and Wednesday 20th January. The Civil Engineering & Environmental Management Department Rep noted that they would be available and willing to be the student panel member for the Applied Computer Games event.

The Academic Rep Coordinator asked those present if anyone was available and willing to be the student panel member for the joint Mechanical Engineering/ Electrical & Electronic Engineering ELISR/ Programme Review event taking place on Monday 18th, Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd January. The SCEBE Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep noted that they would be available and willing to be the student panel member for the Mechanical Engineering/ Electronic Engineering event.

The Academic Rep Coordinator asked those present if anyone was available and willing to be the student panel member for the Computing ELISR/ Programme Review event taking place on Monday 18th, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th January. The Cyber Security & Networks Department Rep noted that they would be available and willing to be the student panel member for the Computing event.

One member noted that they would be interested in becoming a student panel member and asked if any more Programme Review events would be taking place after January. The Academic Rep Coordinator noted that more ELISR and ELISR/ Programme Review events would be taking place during the 2020-21 academic year and that the University and Students' Association would be getting in touch again with more details about them after Christmas and the New Year.

6. Academic Rep Gathering Events.

The Academic Rep Coordinator thanked those members who attended and took part in the 2020 Autumn Academic Rep Gathering event. The Academic Rep Coordinator also thanked those members who took time to complete the 2020 Autumn Academic Rep Gathering Feedback Form.

The Academic Rep Coordinator asked if anyone had any feedback about the event or suggestions for the Spring Academic Rep Gathering event.

A number of members noted that they felt that event was good and that they liked the opportunity to engage with other academic representatives. One member noted that they particularly enjoyed their School's Networking Session.

A number of members noted that they found the sign-up form for the Autumn Academic Rep Gathering event a bit confusing. The Academic Rep Coordinator noted that a number of respondents who completed the Autumn Academic Rep Feedback Form had raised this issue and as a result. The Academic Rep also noted that as a result of this feedback they were currently looking at how they could make the wording on the sign-up form for the Spring Academic Rep Gathering clearer.

One member noted that they were unable to attend the Autumn Academic Rep Gathering event as they had classes timetabled on a Wednesday afternoon and asked if the next Academic Rep Gathering event would also take place on a Wednesday. The Academic Rep Coordinator confirmed that that the Spring Academic Rep Gathering was scheduled to take place on a Wednesday and explained that Academic Rep Gathering events are held on Wednesday afternoons as the majority of students don't have timetabled classes between 1pm and 5pm on Wednesdays. The Academic Rep also explained that in the past Academic Rep Gathering events had been held at both different times and on different days of the week, but had all suffered from poor attendance.

The Academic Rep Coordinator noted that that the Spring Academic Rep Gathering was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 24th February 2021 between 1 pm and 5pm.

7. AOCB

The next meeting for S.A.G.E. is scheduled to take place on 3rd March 2021 (13:00-14:30)