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

20th November 2019 (13:00 – 14:30)

Present:
Moses Apiliga, VP GSBS **(Chair)**
Gabriele Janusonyte, SCEBE Postgraduate (PGR) Research Rep
Ioannis Petrakis, GSBS Postgraduate (PGR) Research Rep
Zubair Sarwar, Management & Human Resource Management Department Rep
Stephanie Slater, Podiatry & Radiography Department Rep
Jennifer Hewitt, Physiotherapy & Paramedicine Department Rep
Kirsty Winters, Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department Rep
Nicola Gray, Media & Journalism Department Rep
Gillian Poynts, GSBS Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep
Sophie Robinson, Vision Sciences Department Rep
Dara Coussot, SCEBE Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep

Apologies:
Sandra Kubasik, Applied Computer Games Department Rep
John Vasconcelos, Mechanical Engineering Department Rep
Stewart Baker, Applied Science Department Rep
Peakay Dennis, Psychology Department Rep
Kimberley Brown, Nursing & Community Health Department Rep
Laura Clark, Cyber Security & Networks Department Rep
Seona Halbert, Biological & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep
Roxanna Munir, SHLS Postgraduate Research (PGR) Rep

Absent:
Bernadette Prickett, Computing Department Rep
Claire MacLeod, Construction & Surveying Department Rep
Maggie Wierzbicka, Economics & Law Department Rep
Tanya Fate-Cockbain, Fashion, Marketing, Tourism & Events Department Rep
Viktor Mirchev, Finance, Accounting & Risk Department Rep
Katie Moffat, Occupational Therapy, Human Nutrition & Dietetics Department Rep
Maria Nagy, Social Work Department Rep

In Attendance:
Susan Docherty, VP SCEBE
Lesley McAleavy, GCU Policy & Development Officer
Avril Williams, GCU Head of Student Wellbeing
Isabella Noble, GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality)
Sara MacLean, Student Voice Team Leader
Paul Stalker, Academic Rep Co-ordinator **(Clerk)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Guidance On Personal Relationships At Work

The Head of Student Wellbeing explained that the University as part of its work on gender-based violence had developed guidance on personal relationships at work. The Head of Student Wellbeing also explained that the guidance covered conflicts of interest regarding family relationships and romantic/ sexual relationships. The Head of Student Wellbeing noted that the guidance was not about stopping relationships between students and staff members, but about managing conflicts of interest that can occur.

The VP SCEBE noted that that is important that relationships are declared in order to ensure that issues and problems around conflicts of interest do not develop for both students and staff members.

The Head of Student Wellbeing asked those present if they any questions or feedback about the guidance.

One member asked if students were required to declare a conflict of interest with regards to personal relationships. The Head of Student Wellbeing noted that a student would not have to do so as it was the responsibility of staff member involved to do so.

One member asked if there had been any policy or guidance on student staff personal relationships before. The Head of Student Wellbeing noted that there not been.

The Head of Student Wellbeing asked those present if they felt any changes needed to be made to the guidance. The VP GSBS noted that it appeared that no one present felt that any changes were needed to the guidance.

2. Approval of S.A.G.E. Minutes (16/10/2019)

The chair made reference to the minutes of the previous S.A.G.E. meeting (16/10/2019) and asked for all those who attended that meeting to approve whether this was an accurate

reflection or not. The GCU Policy & Development Officer highlighted an amendment which the clerk noted to amend. The minutes were approved pending the amendment.

3. Full Time Officers Update

- *VP SCEBE Update*

The VP SCEBE noted that in addition to attending SCEBE School Board meetings that they had been working in partnership with Module Leaders in the School of Computing, Engineering & Built Environment to run workshops to get feedback on the student learning experience. The VP SCEBE also noted that they had helped support the recruitment processes for both the Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep roles and the remaining empty SCEBE Department Rep roles.

- *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 attended the library renaming ceremony. The VP GSBS also noted that they had took part in 'Ask The Officer' events and had attended a sparqs Scottish education officers networking meeting that was held at GCU.

4. Academic Quality & Development Update

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

The GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality) noted that the University was required to submit an Advanced Information Set (AIS) along with the Reflective Analysis (RA) ahead of the ELIR 4 Visit taking place in March 2020. The GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality) explained that the Advanced Information Set (AIS) includes a document, that maps out how the University's policies and practices regarding academic quality and standards meets the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

The GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality) asked members if they felt that there were any errors or if any important details have been missed out in the draft Quality Code Mapping Document.

One member noted that they felt employability was a key strength at GCU but that it didn't seem to be reflected in the Quality Code Mapping Document. The GCU Business Partner

(Academic Quality) noted that this was a good point and they would incorporate this into the final document.

The GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality) noted that the Reflective Analysis (RA) was currently undergoing some final revisions and that both the Reflective Analysis (RA) and Advanced Information Set (AIS) needed to be submitted to QAA Scotland by the 28th November 2019. The GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality) also noted that the Reflective Analysis (RA) would be made available to all students shortly after this date.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer noted that chapter two of the Reflective Analysis (RA), enhancing the student learning experience, would be the most relevant chapter for student representatives to read. The GCU Policy & Development Officer also noted that student representatives may also find parts of chapter three as being relevant to their role.

The GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality) noted that the ELIR4 Planning Visit is scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th February 2020 and that the five day ELIR4 Review Visit will be taking place between Monday 23rd and Friday 27th March 2020.

The GCU Business Partner (Academic Quality) and the GCU Policy & Development Officer noted that the ELIR Review Team would likely like some non-Full Time Officer student representatives to take part in both the ELIR4 Planning Visit and ELIR4 Review Visit.

- *Programme Approval & Review Events*

The GCU Policy & Development Officer thanked those present who had stepped forward to be a panel member in the Programme Review and Programme Approval events that took place in Trimester A.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer explained that more Programme Review and Programme Approval events would be taking place in Trimester B that the University would again be looking for student representatives to step forward to be student panel members.

The VP SCEBE noted that last year they had been a student panel member and that it had been a good experience. The VP SCEBE also noted that they would recommend this paid opportunity to student reps.

The GSBS Postgraduate Taught (PGT) Rep noted that they also had a good experience and that being a student panel was a great way to see the process behind how changes are made to programmes.

The GCU Policy & Development Officer noted that towards the end of the academic year the University would be looking to get feedback from those who took part in this academic years Programme Review and Programme Approval events.

5. Autumn 2019 Academic Rep Gathering

The VP GSBS noted that the Students' Association normally holds one Academic Rep Gathering event in Trimester A and another one in Trimester B.

The VP GSBS explained that due to logistical issues there would not be an Academic Rep Gathering in Trimester A and that instead there would be a number of smaller events, networking session and training workshops, taking place during Week 11 of Trimester A.

6. Education Ideas for Student Voice

The Student Voice Team Leader noted that over the last couple of years there had been a low number of education ideas submitted on the online ideas platform around improving the learning experience at GCU.

The Student Voice Team Leader explained that any current GCU student can submit an idea on the online ideas platform for students to vote on whether they like or dislike it. The Student Voice Team Leader further explained that ideas which received enough support then go to Student Voice to be discussed and voted on whether it should become Students' Association policy.

The VP GSBS explained that a number of the Students' Association's big wins had started out from an idea submitted via the ideas platform. The VP GSBS noted that the successful campaign to abolish Graduation Fees started out as an idea submitted via the ideas platform.

The Student Voice Team Leader noted that making an idea policy makes it easier for the Students' Association to campaign on making it happen as it gives the Full Time Officers a mandate to work on it.

One member noted that they felt that the online ideas platform needed to be promoted more. The Student Voice Team Leader asked those present how the Students' Association could better promote the ideas platform to students.

The Student Voice Team Leader asked those present if better promoting the dates and times of Student Voice meetings would help. The Student Voice Team Leader also asked if face-to-face activities, posters and adverts in student media groups content would help.

A number of members noted that they felt the Students' Association could do more to promote each of the ideas submitted and could do more to talk about the wins that come via the ideas platform, both big and small

The Student Voice Team Leader noted that they were looking to run an 'Ideas Week' early in Trimester B to promote the online ideas platform.   One member asked if a giveaway could be used during that week to promote the ideas process.

The VP SCEBE asked those present if they would like and share social media posts about ideas the ideas process in the next couple of weeks to help promote it to the students that they represent.

7. GCU Learn Class Rep Community

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator noted that the Students' Association had set-up a community on GCU Learn for all Class Reps to join. The Academic Rep Co-ordinator explained that the Students' Association was looking to use the community during the year to share documents and tools that will help Class Reps in their role as well as to provide an online forum where Class Reps can network with each other.

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator asked those present if they actively used GCU Learn and if they felt that other students actively used GCU Learn. A number of participants noted that they actively used GCU Learn and that they felt students used it regularly. One member noted that they felt that most students did not use the communities function and that they only used GCU to access course materials

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator asked those present who were members of the GCU Learn Class Rep Community if they had seen any of the recent announcements posted. A number of members noted that they had not seen any of the announcements. A number of members noted that it was important that the email function was set up for announcements on GCU Learn otherwise students tend to miss out on them as the home page for GCU Learn displays community announcement at the end of a scroll box.

One member noted that they felt that using Padlet via the GCU Learn Class Rep Community could be a great way to get feedback from Class Reps.

The Academic Rep Co-ordinator asked those present who had not yet joined the Class Rep Community on GCU Learn to do so and that instructions on how to join would be sent out in the coming day.

8. AOCB

- *Banded Marking*

The VP GSBS noted that the University had received mixed views and opinions about changing the current percentage grading/ marking system at GCU to an alpha-numerical grading/ marking system. The VP GSBS also noted that the University was planning to undertake further consultation on the idea with students and GCU staff members.

- *UCU Industrial Action*

The VP SCEBE noted that the University and Colleges Union (UCU) had voted to go on strike between the 25th and 29 November as well as between the 2nd and 4th December. The VP SCEBE also noted that UCU had also voted to take action short of a strike, ie working to rule.

The VP SCEBE explained that the Students' Association fully supports the reasons behind UCU's industrial action and backs GCU staff members who decide to take action. The VP SCEBE also explained that the Full Time Officers planned to show their solidarity with those striking by providing teas and coffees to staff members on the picket lines.

The VP SCEBE noted that a representative from UCU would be coming along to the next Student Voice meeting to answer any questions Student Voice members might have as well as explain why UCU members are taking industrial action.

One member asked if students would get advance notice if their lectures were taking part in the industrial action. The VP SCEBE explained that the University is asking staff members who intend to undertake industrial action to consider letting their students know in advance, but that staff members were not required to notify students or the University in advance that they will be taking part.

One member asked what cover there would be for supporting students on placement durring the strike, who should students get in contact with if something goes wrong at their placement if their staff contact is on strike. The VP SCEBE noted that they did not know the answer but that they would raise the issue with the University.

The VP SCEBE noted that Students' Association's position might change depending on the length of the dispute and/ or if there was any escalation in the type of action taken.

The next meeting for S.A.G.E. is scheduled to take place on 26th February (13:00-14:30)