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

31st October 2018 (10:00 – 11:00) in NH209

Present:
Moses Apiliga, VP GSBS **(Chair)**
Hannah Brown, Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department Rep
Michael Marshall, GSBS Research Student Lead
Annelysse Jorgenson, SHLS Research Student Lead

Apologies:
Susan Docherty, Mature & Part-time Students' Officer
Craig Davidson, Nursing & Community Health Department Rep
Heather Son, Management & Human Resource Management Department Rep
Dion Maroulis, Biology & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep
Waqas Javed, SCEBE Research Student Lead
Aliisa Pulkkinen, Applied Computer Games Department Rep

Absent:
Yetunde Ogedengbe, VP SHLS

In Attendance:
Rachel Simpson, Student President
Eilidh Fulton, VP SCEBE
Lesley McAleavy, GCU Policy & Development Officer
Frances MacInnes, University Common Good Lead
Paul Stalker, Academic Rep Co-ordinator
Sara MacLean, Student Voice Team Leader

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Approval of S.A.G.E. Minutes (04/04/2017)

The chair made reference to the minutes of the previous S.A.G.E. meeting (04/04/2018) and asked for all those who attended that meeting to approve whether this was an accurate reflection or not. The minutes were approved.

2. Common Good Society

The University Common Good Lead noted that the University was looking at ways to getting more students involved in the Common Good Awards as uptake had so far been low. The University Common Good Lead also noted that at the London Campus a Common Good student society had been set-up and that the University would like a similar student society to be set-up at the Glasgow campus to help generate and coordinate interest in the Common Good Awards.

The VP SCEBE noted that the Students' Association had tried to promoting the idea of setting up a Common Good Society at the Glasgow campus on social media but had not received any responses of interest from students. The VP SCEBE also highlighted that a Students' Association society can only be created if students want to set-up and run one.

The University Common Good Lead noted that the University did not want to run the society themselves as they want it to be student led and don't feel that a staff member working on it would be helpful.

The University Common Good Lead asked those present if students actually knew about the Common Good Award. It was noted by a number of individuals that students were aware of the Common Good Award but were not fused in taking part as they don't see the need or value to do so. It was also noted by the SHLS Research Student Lead that some Postgraduate Research Students are discouraged in taking part in any extracurricular activities.

The University Common Good Lead noted that the University recognised that staff needed to do more the communicate that the Common Good was about capturing existing activity in order to challenge the misperception that it was something that require a significant level of additional activity.

A number of participants questioned whether creating a student society was actually the best way to achieve the aim generating and coordinating interest in the Common Good Awards.

It was suggested by a number of participants that brining the idea to the Societies Council for discussion would be more appropriate.

ACTION: VP SCEBE to meet with University Common Good Lead to discuss next steps.

3. Full Time Officer Update

- *Student President Update*

The Student President noted that they has been working on the recent changes to the undergraduate academic rep structure, the move from having nine School Officers to having 22 Department Reps, which has been implemented to reflect the recent restructure of academic departments within the Schools.

The Student President noted that they had also been reviewing the current role descriptions for academic reps and that they had been working with University on its reflective analysis for the upcoming ELIR (Enhancement-Led Institutional Review).

- *VP SCEBE Update*

VP SCEBE noted that they are currently in the process of running a series of listening events for SCEBE students. Four listening events have been held so far. Once all the listening events have been held the VP SEBE will present the feedback gathered to school.

VP SCEBE noted that they had also been promoting the Department Reps recruitment process as well as working on looking at how academic societies can be used to improve NSS scores.

VP SCEBE noted that they attended a SCEBE School Board on the 17th October 2018.

In the coming weeks the VP SCEBE noted that they will be starting a review around articulation students.

- *VP GSBS Update*

VP GSBS noted that they had been promoting the Department Reps recruitment process and that they had attended a SCEBE School Board on the 17th October 2018.

4. Academic Quality & Development Update

The GCU Policy & Development Officer asked for feedback from those present on why they felt, or why they believed more students were not taking up the opportunity to take part in the programme approval and review panels. The GCU Policy & Development Officer noted that in terms of eligibility student panel members could not sit on a review panel covering their own programme, and that they had to have experience of the level study covered (ie only a Postgraduate Taught (PGT) or Postgraduate Research Student (PGR) could sit on a review panel covering a PGT course).

It was noted from a number of those present that the difficulties in getting students sit on programme approval and review panels was probably due to the fact many rep roles were empty and in the process of being recruited. It was also noted that all day events are unappealing for a lot of students and the amount of reading required could put people off.

5. Student Experience Summit

The Student President noted that the first Student Experience Summit of the academic year is scheduled to take place on Monday 12th November between 10am to 1.30pm.

The Student President explained that Student Experience Summits are event run by the University in partnership with the Students' Association to get feedback on a specific area or theme, with past Student Experience Summit events covering the mental health agreement and partnership agreement.

It was noted by the Student President and GCU Policy & Development Officer that focus of this Student Experience is the student voice and that the event would be looking to get student feedback on the draft student engagement framework, academic representation at GCU, as well as on how closing the loop on what happens to student feedback and SHLS's new Student Staff Consultative Group (SSCG) feedback template.

It was noted by the Student President, VP SCEBE and VP GSBS that the University and Students' Association were looking for to student reps to help facilitate some of the discussions/ activities at the event. The Electrical & Electronic Engineering Department Rep indicated that they were interested in helping.

6. Academic Representation Review Planning

The Student Voice Team Leader asked for feedback from those present on draft *Academic Representation Review 2018-19 Plan* that had been distributed to SAGE members in advance of the meeting. A discussion followed on the plans areas for review, stakeholders, methodology and actions.

It was suggested during the discussion on the proposed areas for the review that it might be worth including looking at the experience of being a rep as well as what the expectations of the roles are. It was also noted that if it was not already covered in recognition, the visibility of reps should be looked at.

It was suggested during the discussion on the proposed list stakeholders to include in the review that PGR Tutors should be included among the list of stakeholders given that they

Programme Leaders only covered taught programmes of study (UG and PGT). It was also suggested during the discussion on stakeholders that it might be useful to include Programme Coordinators in addition to Programme Leaders as many Programme Coordinators are involved with things to do with Class Reps.

It was noted by a number of participants that some lectures don't want to get involved with student reps as they are too busy.

It was suggested by a number of participants during the discussion on the reviews proposed methodology and actions that it might be worth getting rid of the interviews as it would be very time consuming. It was also noted by a number of participants that there would be far too many SSCG minutes to go through and that analysing a random sample from one department in each School would be more manageable.

It was noted by the GCU Policy & Development Officer that the University is currently undertaking an audit of its relationship with the Students' Association in relation to representation, as part of its normal external audit review process.

7. AOCB

The next meeting for S.A.G.E. is scheduled to take place on 12th December 2018 at 13:00