



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

4th April 2018 (13:10 – 13:35) in NH209

Present:

Chris Daisley, VP SEBE (**Chair**)
Susan Docherty, M&PT Students' Officer
Emma Duffy, SSMJ School Officer
Sennan Mattar, SEBE Research Student Lead
Alexandra Radoescu, BM School Officer
Tamsin Ross, GSBS PGT Representative
Lesley McAleavy, GCU Policy and Development Officer

Apologies:

Alan Adamson, E School Officer
Kirstin Bouma, SHLS PGT Representative
Maura Daly, SHLS Research Student Lead
Brendan Owen, LS School Officer
Callum Smith, CCIS School Officer
John Templeton, NCH School Officer

Absent:

Olubunmi Ajayi, SEBE PGT Representative
James Chilembwe, International Students' Officer
Rachel Hewitt, GSBS Research Student Lead
Keir Thomson, PSWAHS School Officer
Ross Wilson, LEAR School Officer

In Attendance:

Kevin Campbell, Student President
Yetunde Ogedengbe, VP SHLS
Rachel Simpson, VP GSBS
Gary Kyle, Student Rep Assistant
Paul Stalker, Student Voice Co-ordinator

1. Approval of S.A.G.E. Minutes (21/02/2018)

Chair welcomed everyone to the final S.A.G.E. meeting of the current academic year and proceeded to approving minutes. Minutes agreed following two typing error amendments.

2. Full Time Officer Update

- Student President Update

The Student President made reference to a motion submitted to NUS Scotland by VP SEBE in regards to the UK Quality Code consultation that had been discussed at a previous S.A.G.E. meeting in this academic year. The Student President attended the recent NUS UK conference.

The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) are organising a session for FTOs and senior student representatives to look at the existing credit framework breakdown within higher education and how Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) credits can be transferred when a student is joining a new university (either via articulation or returning to study). The Student President will notify S.A.G.E. members when the SCQF are intending on holding this session and encouraged participation.

Additionally, it was noted that the Student President, VP SEBE and the CCIS School Officer had been trained for the upcoming ELIR4 events.

Finally, GCU Students' Association was recently recognised as a runner-up for the NUS Scotland Diversity Award and the Students' Association of the Year award.

- VP SEBE Update

VP SEBE has communicated GCU Students' Association's feedback to the university regarding the ongoing "Fitness to Study" policy consultation and it was noted that the university has taken this feedback on-board.

Continuing on from the Student President's update, VP SEBE stated that the proposed motion that was submitted to NUS Scotland was passed unanimously at the conference and therefore will hopefully be influential in shaping NUS Scotland's work for the next academic year.

VP SEBE will also be a panel member for an upcoming ELISR event, due to take place next week, within the Business Management department.

- VP SHLS Update

The intercultural skills module is going to be piloted across Level 7 (1st year undergraduate) students before then being expanded across other year cohorts. This will be piloted across all three Schools.

A motion to NUS UK, submitted by VP SHLS, focusing on international student visas was unfortunately not read out at conference due to disruptions that took place at the event. However, VP SHLS has been assured that this will be revisited and an update will be provided to S.A.G.E. members when more information has been received.

- *VP GSBS Update*

The review of the School Officer model, which forms part of the wider FTO objectives, is still happening and VP GSBS has reached out to all School Officers, School Deans, and Class Reps. Additionally, VP GSBS has been working with VP SEBE on reviewing the teaching awards.

Finally, VP GSBS stated that the Student Summit, which took place on 26th February 2018, was successful and the feedback which came from it will help shape policies that support mental health wellbeing at GCU.

3. Academic Quality & Development Update

The GCU Policy and Development Officer briefly discussed the ELISR events that will be taking place across the university (one of which VP SEBE is involved with) and that in Trimester A of the next academic year (2018/19), there will be a number of undergraduate and postgraduate Programme Approval and Review Boards taking place.

Eligible S.A.G.E. members are welcome to take part in these panels as student members and it is thought that the first of these events will take place in October 2018 and more details will be circulated in due course.

4. Sustainability in Curriculums

VP GSBS is the sustainability lead for GCU Students' Association's Ethical & Environmental committee; who are currently working towards retaining the NUS Green Impact accreditation (of which there are multiple criteria to fulfil for the award).

In a paper that was circulated amongst the S.A.G.E. committee, VP GSBS discussed the National Student Survey (NSS) and that there is scope for questions to be included into next year's (2018/19) survey that asks students about sustainability in relation to their higher education experience. VP GSBS wants to gauge from the S.A.G.E. members whether there was any knowledge of sustainability currently being taught or embedded into the student learning experience.

In addition to this, VP GSBS made reference to the Teaching Awards and the scope to introduce a new award criterion that explores teaching in a sustainable way. The SSMJ School Officer said that there was very brief coverage mentioned within their degree programme. The Mature and Part-time Students' Officer said that there was nothing referring to sustainability within their degree programme. The SEBE Research Student Lead, who works within the Centre for Climate Justice part of GCU, said there was a lot of reference within that particular part of the university but, as VP GSBS pointed out, this would not be enough to justify a new award because sustainable teaching has to be readily observed across all three Schools.

The Chair pointed out that "sparqs" (Student Partnership in Quality Scotland) have also been working on exploring engaging students (particularly student representatives) with sustainable education. The Chair invited future comments/queries/feedback regarding this paper to be directed to VP GSBS.

5. Teaching Awards

The Chair made the S.A.G.E. committee aware that Teaching Award nominations were substantially lower in terms of number of submissions and overall engagement with the process. The Chair stressed to all S.A.G.E. members that they need to encourage students to participate with this because, if not, the Teaching Awards may not be able to exist in its current format next year (thereby not allowing excellent teaching and support to be recognised at GCU).

The Mature and Part-time Students' Officer asked if the GCU Students' Association's tablets could be circulated, similar to when the Full Time Officer elections took place. The Student Voice Co-ordinator said that whilst this is a possibility, the current form is time-consuming and therefore it may disengage students by having to stand a complete it via a tablet. The Mature and Part-time Students' Officer then asked if an incentive or prize-draw could be used to motivate students to which the Chair said that this could be considered.

E-mails have been sent out regarding short-listing panels and a review meeting will be taking place on 28th May 2018 to review the Teaching Awards based on the final outcome of nomination submissions, *etc.* The GSBS PGT Representative asked why the Teaching Awards were being pushed at this particular time of the academic year as students are currently busy with coursework, dissertations, exams, *etc.* The Chair pointed out that nominations have been open since October and, therefore, this should not have been an issue but the Teaching Awards have to occur towards the end of the academic year so as to celebrate teaching achievements that have taken place earlier in the academic year.

6. AOCB

- *International Student Survey*

VP SHLS spoke about the International Student Survey which is a worldwide survey that explores the perspective of international students on why they choose particular universities, the quality of teaching, *etc.* and VP SHLS stressed that one of the reasons S.A.G.E. is so important is because student engagement and student opinions on matters such as quality of teaching is what benefits both international and home students; thus providing feedback for institutions to work on.

VP SHLS invited S.A.G.E. members to contact her if they have any opinions on how GCU could build upon improving international relations with students.

The meeting concluded with the Chair thanking all members of the S.A.G.E. committee for their contributions throughout the academic year. The Student President also thanked the Chair for his management of the committee within his capacity of Chairperson.

The next meeting for S.A.G.E. is scheduled to take place in Trimester A of 2018/19