

Student Voice Report by Student President

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Committees:

Student Voice/Executive Committee/Trustee Board

Action:

Approve/For Information

Full Time Officer Individual Objectives

	Main Priorities	Progress <i>What have you achieved since the last meeting?</i>
1.	SA Strategy 2025	Initial meeting with SA, Strategy Planning Session arranged.
2.	We all Stand Together Campaign	Discussed collaboration events within the GCU SA communities with groups and individuals, specifically the LGBT+ Group who will be holding their Glitter Ball in collaboration with other groups, potential funding from Santander funds. Meeting with VP SHLS on how we can produce an Inclusion legacy video using Santander funding.
3.	Investigate/Write funding bid for Mind your Mate and 'Suicide Prevention'	Investigation underway. Contacted previous applicants. Meetings arranged with several involved parties.

Full Time Officer Team Objectives

	Main Priorities	Progress <i>What have you achieved since the last meeting?</i>
1.	To include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) into the next Students' Association Strategic Plan and Operational Plan.	Pledged the Students' Association to take part in the SOS-UK Global Goals Teach In Education campaign begun, collating videos to put together for Social media and newsletter to create awareness of what the SDG's are before discussions are open on Strategic plan.
2.	Supporting students' mental health by communicating the benefits of participating in the GCU community, such as through our clubs, societies, groups.	Encouraged students to join clubs, societies and groups and to build their own communities through officer engagement, videos, lecture shout videos, social media. Myself and VP SCEBE attending GCU live Refreshers Induction event and did a live webinar presentation of the SA and the resources and benefits of joining the community. Sharing VP SCEBE's Feel Fab Feb and VP SHLS work on tackling racism on all social media platforms. Working as champion of LGBT+ Group to help promote the group and benefits to the LGBT+ community and allies.

		I created and hosted 10 events throughout the holidays over Christmas and New Year to support students' mental health, specifically for students in isolation. VP SCEBE attended several events and VP SHLS attended all the way from Kenya.
3.	No room for racism at GCU campaign (educate, no room for hate)	VP SHLS attended the Tackling Racism Working Group and created a podcast and blog shared by myself and VP SCEBE. Myself and VP SHLS created a presentation for the University Court day in which I presented on behalf of VP SHLS to university court on the work carried out by the SA on tackling racism.

Remit Progress

	Main Priorities	Progress <i>What have you achieved since the last meeting?</i>
1.	GCU London	Meeting arranged with London Officer and London Reps 1 st week in Feb.
2.	GCU Communications & Public Affairs	Attended weekly communications meetings and input on all aspects of comms and public affairs. Filmed on campus with the student comms team and VP SCEBE for NSS Video to be sent to all final year students.
3.	GCU Facilities and Estates (not Caledonian Court or Catering)	Attended weekly Safe Return to Campus meetings with the university to represent the students views, had meeting with Estates to discuss Brass Handles and Gender Neutral toilets.
4.	APPC (Academic Policy and Practice Committee)	Read papers and attended APPC meeting, commented on several issues and put views across on any item that affected students' academic interests.
5.	ELIR (Enhancement-led Institutional Review)	Achieved highest level on GCU's ELIR with SA received commendation on partnership working with the university, still to be published.
6.	University Court	Wrote Tri A report for University Court and Student President Court Report to be presented at Court in Feb.
7.	Champion: LGBT+ Group	Met with LGBT+ Officer to discuss LGBT+ Month and the Glitter Ball which all LGBT+ community and all allies are invited to attend. Put joint comms out with the wellbeing team at GCU to promote LGBT+ month and the Ball, Meeting arranged with SA comms to discuss promotion of LGBT+ events throughout Feb. VP SCEBE to include all events on Feel Fab Feb.
8.	Academic and Student Experience	Attended weekly meetings to represent the students and work with the university to enhance the student experience.

		Discussed issues such as no detriment policies, classifications and impact on students. Meeting arranged with key members of group and all FTO's to discuss how we can ensure Covid-19 has not been detrimental to their grades/classifications.
9.	Meetings	<p>15th Dec-29th Jan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn Academic Rep Gathering Review Meeting to discuss everyone's feedback about the Autumn Academic Rep Gathering event with VP SEBE and VP SHLS • Attended weekly meetings with Stuart Martin Comms/Student Life • Attended SAGE Gave update on ELIR • Attended regular SA Health and Safety meeting • Attended launch of Strategy 2030 meeting with GCU and presented at their launch event • Attended weekly Exec Board meetings with the university exec team • Attended weekly AcSED • Attended weekly SRTC (Safe return to Campus) meetings • Attended ETSE (Enhancing the Student Experience) Steering group meeting • Monthly catch up meeting with GCU Principal Pamela Gilles to discuss student issues • Attended monthly catch up meeting with Chief Operating Officer Susan Mitchell • Attended monthly catch up meeting with Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategy and VP SCEBE • Attended web stakeholder meeting to consult with university Students' Association input into new GCU website • Attended SDG Integration working group meeting with GCU • Monthly catch up meeting with Communications team at GCU • Attended GCU Court Governance & Nominations Committee • Attended APPC pre-briefing • Attended APPC • Attended Senate Disciplinary meeting • Attended celebrating 2020 Graduates group meeting • For full exec report and to see what I have done to represent students' academic

		<p>interests click here (most recent may not yet be published)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Student President Covid Blog click here • For Student President Covid update Blog click here
10.	Open Days	<p>Attended and presented at GCU Induction day and produced webinar with VP SCEBE to discuss the SA and our resources and benefits of being involved</p>
11.	Student Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosted Ask the Officer Live on the SA social media with guest NUS President Scotland • Regular meetings with students to discuss live issues • Promoted student and SA events on all social media platforms • Hosted a joint event with GCU Alumni on Christmas Day • Created and hosted 9 events over the festive holidays for students alone or in isolation • Created 2 blogs for the SA website • Hosted International Student Quiz with VP SCEBE • Presented at International Students Induction with VP SCEBE • Helped create a new engagement plan for TRI B with exec team at SA
12.	Smarthinking Pilot	<p>Worked in partnership with the university on a pilot for 24/7 academic writing, statistics and basic maths help for students 365 days a year. Myself and VP SHLS sit on the working group and created 2 videos, 1 for the festive period and 1 for beginning of TRI B to go out to all 1st year students.</p>
13.	NUS Campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #Students Deserve Better <p>1. NUS and Students' Associations won £750,000 to assist with more welfare advice on campuses.</p> <p>Myself and other officers throughout Scotland backed the NUS campaign to lobby the government for extra money for Students' Associations with the gov awarding new funding of £750,000 to help NUS Scotland and more than 30 student associations to provide vital welfare support for students in colleges and universities.</p> <p>The money will help build online student communities, increase membership engagement and develop public health and wellbeing messaging.</p>

	<p>It will also help further provide support for students with our Students' Association at GCU receiving £24000 as part of our share.</p> <p>NUS Scotland and Students' Associations will work closely with their institutions to ensure these activities complement those funded by the additional £1.32 million in this financial year for student mental health support announced by the First Minister last month</p> <p>2. Campaigned on issues with NUS Scotland and other officers throughout Scotland and students, calling on the Scottish Government and all MSPs to back our calls for increased financial support for students, specifically we're asking for: A doubling of further and higher education discretionary funding An additional £5 million to address ongoing digital poverty</p> <p>3. As part of our #StudentsDeserveBetter I took part in the campaign along with other Scotland officers, in which the four Presidents of NUS UK, NUS Wales, NUS-USI and NUS Scotland sent a joint letter to our four governments, asking them for a coherent strategy to get students home for Christmas and other religious and significant events, and support for those who will be on campus over the winter closure.</p> <p>4.I signed an open letter together with other Scottish officers to campaign the First Minister, Universities Scotland and Colleges Scotland asking for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ - Rent compensation ➤ - No detriment policies ➤ - Write off or re-imburse fees ➤ - Discretionary and digital funding <p>5.Took part in the NUS social media campaign personally and as part of the Students' Association #StudentsDeserveBetter and we are asking everyone to take part by emailing your MSPs and ask them to support NUS Scotland's budget asks and ask them to sign a pledge to support the Students Deserve Better campaign.</p>
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Plans Before the Next Meeting

	Main Priorities	Intended Outcome/Impact <i>What difference will this meeting or event make?</i>
1.	Continue work on the SDG Campaign, specifically the education of SDG's, finish creating video and blogs and promote on all platforms. Work on and take part in the SOS-UK Global Goals Teach In Feb to March	This will educate students on what the SDG Goals are and how embedding them into the lives of the GCU community can create positive change. Students learn about the SDGs and their relevance to their course, and, where relevant, potential future career with a vision to see all students leaving formal education with the knowledge, skills, and attributes to create a more just and sustainable future.
2.	Continue work on the SA Strategy 2025	To help clarify and shape the vision of the SA
3.	Mental Health-Building Communities	Work to embed mental health into our liberation, representation, societies and sports clubs to increase wellbeing and mental health. Work towards peer support to create a culture of care within the student body and build stronger communities. Encourage students to join clubs, societies and groups and to build their own communities through officer engagement, videos, lecture shout videos, social media. Continue to share VP SCEBE's Feel Fab Feb events throughout February. Promote the LGBT+ Group to help promote the group and benefits to the LGBT+ community and allies as well as share content from all other communities and groups at the SA.