

Committee Title	Student Voice					
Date of Meeting	7 th December 2020					
Item Number and Title/Subject	Student Voice Officers Reports					
Paper Presenter	Student Voice Officers					
Brief Summary of Issues/Topic	Student Voice received a written report from each Student Voice Officers once a Trimester.					
Recommendation(s)	Information		Discussion		Approval	X
	<p><i>Any member can ask a question by raising their voting card and being recognised by the Chair to speak.</i></p> <p>Student Voice is asked to approve the Student Voice Officers Report.</p>					
Who have you consulted when developing the paper?	Executive Committee					
Staff/Student Protocol	Yes		No	X	N/A	
Will any decision approved directly affect the work of staff?						
Should the paper be submitted to any other committee following its consideration/approval at this meeting?	No					
If yes, please state the committee and proposed date of submission.						

Sports Council Chair Report

- Council have had monthly meetings
- Reopened council nominations form to recruit our last member of sports council (Fundraising and Outreach Convener), however had no response. Council to decide whether to try again in Trimester B or leave the committee as it is
- Athletics have commenced outdoor social runs in Glasgow Green on Monday evenings
- Both men and women's Hockey and Snowsports have commenced outdoor trainings
- Outdoor Sports have commenced Kayaking sessions
- Council are planning a virtual Sports Awards night to recognise the sporting achievements of 2019/20. This will take place on Saturday 12th December and act as a replacement of last year's Sports Ball that was meant to happen in April
- A panel has been decided to choose awards and a short-listing process is ongoing

Nursing and Community Health Rep Report

I have attended the student staff consultatory group meeting to discuss current issues students are having with staff. I then worked with student class reps to articulate the feedback back to students.

I have been working to support class reps and find ways to best receive feedback from students.

Civil Engineering & Environmental Management Department Rep Report

I have now been in the post for around 3 months and is my first time as a department rep. Having been a class rep for past 3 years I am aware of what that role involves which has helped me greatly when working with class reps. I have attended all department rep training which took place in August/September. I have sent out an introduction video to the programme leader of the courses I represent that has been past around via email and posted on GCU Learn so all students and staff are aware of my role and contact details. I have sent an introduction email to all class reps within my remit and set up WhatsApp group chats for each programme. The idea behind the WhatsApp group is to provide an informal platform that class reps can connect with each other and pass on any ideas to myself. I attended the first student voice session and took part in SCEBE academic rep gathering. The gathering allowed the opportunity to discuss online learning with the dean and associated dean, which I then passed on to the class reps.

In general class reps appear comfortable in their role and are generally content with the current running of their respective programmes. Common themes across the department and SCEBE as a whole is confusion over online learning whether class will be live or pre-recorded and concern has been raised about restricted library opening hours with students who have 9am classes unable to use the library at this time as it does not open until 10am. These concerns have been raised and passed on through the appropriate channels.

Physiology and Paramedicine Department Rep Report

- Attended Department Rep training
- Introduced myself to Heather Gray Department Lead
- Attended the School of Health and Life Sciences 1/4 school board meeting
- Emailed an introduction of myself to all Physiotherapy and Paramedicine Class Reps
- Created a WhatsApp group chat for all the Physiotherapy Class Reps and all the Paramedicine Class Reps

Biological & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep Report

- Organised a meeting with my class representatives. I have informed them about what I have been doing, and what they can do during their time at GCU as class reps to help their fellow students. I have also pointed out opportunities for personal development, such as the leadership programme, the Common Good Award, Student Mentor and Student Ambassador future opportunities. Upon approval of the majority, it has been decided that a monthly meeting will be organised on Collaborate Ultra to socialise and report on ongoing issues.
- Following the first SSCG meeting, I have touched base with my class reps through a WhatsApp group chat, to see how the meeting went. The main and most pressing concerns have been passed on from me to the Vice President of SHLS.
- On a daily basis I check Q&A padlets for each module, and help answering questions to speed up the reply time for my fellow students; in doing so, I also lighten the questionnaire load for the lectures.
- I made myself available for study groups on Facebook and WhatsApp; these groups were also used to give a point of contact and morale support to fellow students whose mental health has been fragile lately.

Management & Human Resources Management Department Rep Report

Since the last student voice meeting, I have initiated contact with the class reps in my department. I heard back from many of them and could aid several of them with issues already, and we had a chat to get to know each other- quite important in these times. Happy to say that the reps are settling into their roles and getting on well.

I have also attended an SSCG for 3rd years in my department, as I wanted to learn of any issues that had been circulating in addition to the ones I was already aware of.

I met with head of department, Susan Odgen to check in and update her- there was not a lot to report other than some 3rd year students struggling with a specific module.

To address the issue with 3rd year students, I met with the dean John Lennon & head of department, Susan Odgen to discuss some issues regarding the EEE3 module and we had a productive call and I brought to their attention the thoughts and feelings of many students. They took the issues in to consideration and I am presently unaware of any changes made or actions taken.

I plan to meet again with Susan in the month of December to check in again.

Fashion, Marketing, Tourism and Events Department Rep Report

- In my role as department Rep I participated in the induction week lead by Paul Stalker
- I attended the first GSBS board meeting, the SAGE meetings, the pre-SAGE meeting, the department rep social sessions
- I got elected to be a member of learning and teaching committee and Equality and diversity committee
- Fortunately, I was able to present Alastair (head of teaching and learning) some of the feedback I have already collected from my class reps
- Got in touch with all my class Reps

- After long consideration I sorted them into 5 groups based on course and year the reps are in
- emailed them information about my persona to introduce myself, no one really responded to that and I started to become a bit unmotivated
- I send out polls asking when They would be available for our first meetings but the responses were even lower than after my first email
- Then I asked for their phone numbers and permission to create WhatsApp groups
- The responses I've received were beyond my expectations and about ¾ of the FMTE class reps agreed on being added to the individual group chats
- Then I asked in the WhatsApp group chats again what time would suit them best and I got a few responses there
- The final decision when the meeting was held by me as I was not willing to wait any longer for reps to response
- I had more participants than expected to join the meetings
- The main issues that all years have been issued was they wished for more, earlier and clearer (!!!) instructions for assessments due to the online semester
- Most have experienced an overwhelming support from their seminar leaders but felt like the lecturers and module leaders weren't giving clear enough instructions to the seminar leaders and students
- Most also issued a lack of engagement from other students and some even wished for more demanding to put the cameras on from the seminar leaders
- Some teaching staff have been highly praised like Daniel Baxter, Christine (Principles of Marketing) and the module leader of Sports Management
- I personally felt like it would be useful if the personal tutors would get in touch with students individually or organize a meeting every month to remind everyone of the help services the university offers and asks about issues the students are facing
- Another wish that had been stated from all levels and courses was for regular meetings between module leaders and class reps. Not as in students and staff meeting where one course from all levels and the course leader are represented but a meeting where a module leader meets with all class reps from the courses that participate his/her module

Media & Journalism Department Rep Report

- Sent out an introductory e-mail to all class reps in my department, introducing myself whilst providing the opportunity to arrange a meeting with me if they wanted to
- Following the email, a couple of responses came back
- A meeting was arranged and held between myself and the 4th Year Media and Journalism Class Rep (10th November 2020)
- A meeting was arranged and held between myself and both of the 4th year Media and Communications Class Reps (11th November 2020)
- Attended and contributed to the GSBS Networking meeting on the 18th November 2020 from 4pm-5pm – Addressed that there is confusion with the 4th Year Media and Journalism, as well as 4th Year Media and Communication students in regards to a set limit of 6 hours of supervision meetings, including email time, as stated in the module handbook.
- Brought up the issue that in 4th year there are two assignments due in the same week (week 9) – Dissertation Prospectus and Journal of Industry Engagement. As a result of this, the latter deadline has been pushed back an extra week providing more time for the students and reducing stress and pressure.
- Joined the "GSBS All Student Reps" group chat on WhatsApp and engaged with Class Reps and Department Reps within the group.

Disabled Students' Officer Report

Main priorities:

- First DSG virtual meeting
- Create Facebook page
- E&D Committee attendance
- Disabled History Month
 - Launch
 - Events / Activities
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- Student voice attendance

Progress:

Mon 16th Nov

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4692977094108531/?ref=share>

Thurs 19th Nov- key discussions with Alastair Robertson, Director of Academic Development and Student Learning. Points raised re RAPs and support from Disabled Services taken fwd by Adrian Lui to Catriona Mowat DS manager.

Weds 18th Nov- online

Disabled Service Discussion Panel Thurs 3rd Dec

External building Glowpurple: Static with limited traction.

Pending

Points of interest:

Please find relevant docs re teaching and learning promoting accessible teaching:

How Accessible is your Teaching?

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/media/gcalwebv2/student/wellbeing/A3%20Checklist%20DIGITAL.pdf>

How Accessible is your online teaching?

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/media/gcalwebv2/student/wellbeing/How%20Accessible%20is%20your%20Online%20Teaching.pdf>

Guidance for creating accessible teaching material

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/support/disabilityservice/staffmaterials/guidanceforcreatingaccessibleteachingmaterial/>

Teaching guides to support lecturers to ensure their teaching practice is inclusive of the needs of students with visual impairment, who are deaf/hard of hearing, who have dyslexia, who have a mental illness and who are autistic.

<https://www.gcu.ac.uk/student/support/disabilityservice/staffmaterials/inclusiveteachingguides/>

Cyber Security & Networks Department Rep Report

Since the last Student Voice meeting, I chaired a Student/Staff Consultative Group meeting with the Head of Department and programme leaders of CSN, where all of our class reps were in attendance. I confirmed the minutes of that meeting at the CSN Programme Board on Wednesday 25th of November and provided a verbal update. The majority of our class reps are now in a dedicated

Discord server that I created for providing feedback, where we have the opportunity for open discussion.

Women's Officer Report

- Established 2 worthy candidates for Deputy Role, just waiting on election approval
- Set up Social Media – Instagram Page, now looking to do Facebook page as well
- Setting up monthly movie nights
- Setting up bi-weekly MTeams “take a break” sessions to connect and let group members relax
- Considering setting up Quiz nights on a monthly basis to connect and maybe give out a prize – this is still unsure
- Attending confidence building session with my school (Business) that was set up by class reps and lecturers to aid student's confidence
- Took part in Student Minds Student Focus Group and spoke about the support and mental health surrounding GCU
- Attending the Rosey Project Website Launch, which is a rape prevention and support project, where there will be talks on its importance and how to help support survivors.
- Creating a webinar on endometriosis and menstruation to raise awareness

Podiatry & Radiography Department Rep Report

- Attended week long academic rep training course.
- Additional training on gathering feedback online.
- Set up private WhatsApp and Facebook Group to converse.
- Establishing network with Podiatry and Radiography representatives.

Economics & Law Department Rep Report

September 2020

- Completed Department Rep Induction Training (5 days)
- Uploaded Picture for GCU Students Association Page

October 2020

- Attended School Board Meeting (14th October)
- Attended SAGE Meeting (21st October)
- Joined GSBS Department Rep Group Chat (informal via WhatsApp)

Student Help via personal university email: I aided a student with regard to access to materials for a certain course which were not made available at the time. I enquired into the issue with the lecturer involved and received a response.

November 2020

- Had an email forwarded, by Lesly Munro, to all Law Students and made an introductory welcome (4th November)
- Attended Student Voice Induction Meeting (4th November)
- Contacted Class Representatives in Third Year Level for Law LLB

I am having issues with my Department Rep Email Account so I may / may not have already received the rest of my class representatives and their email addresses.

SCEBE PGT Student Representative Report

During my time as a class and PGT Rep, I have gained various experiences, as I try to above the student support expectations by having regular conversations with my colleague postgrad students and lecturers, on what the module requires and any issues that might have been arisen due to it, as these included issues such as planning a more structured way of learning in partnership with the students, thus allowing me to understand what services could be improved upon and created a friendly and welcoming environment that our new students greatly appreciated. As having that small personal touch made all the difference. This active communication meant that I can quickly pivot if any member of staff or student is not happy with the way their project is designed.

Towards the end of any student discussion session, I always try to create a word document highlighting every issue discussed in the meeting, while also bullet pointing any possible solution or suggestion to that problem, thus helping any student that might have an issue accessing such resources, as a copy of the document file with any follow-up suggestion get uploaded on our class what's app group and Microsoft teams Group, thereby allowing students to stay updated on every module. As I think the current and biggest issue students across all schools are facing is online learning. Even though GCU, the IT Technicians and the Professors are trying their absolute best to make the online learning as easy and interactive as possible, it is still a new way of learning for many, if not the majority of us. It is probably something even more challenging for Distant Learning students, who may not be able to attend the live classes due to time differences. If we are to continue with online learning or even blended learning which involves both face-to-face and online classes, according to all the feedback gained from my colleagues through video or online conversation I believe we should take into account individual student concerns to make their online learning experience less challenging.

Magazine Editor Report

Christmas Edition:

- We are in progress of creating our Christmas Edition, with the final deadline for Lora Addison to proof read being 18th December.
- We are still putting articles up on the website to keep our viewers interested in the content we post.
- There has been no movement in terms of the Christmas virtual event, but I will discuss with Kathy before the end of the week about this.

Plans for 2021:

- In terms of next year, we are hoping to finally create a print edition for Spring, but this is dependent on COVID-19.
- Still on track for creating a mini Elections edition, but I will most likely allow my deputy editor the freedom to tackle this in order to delegate the responsibility more evenly.

Applied Computer Games Department Rep Report

In the role as Applied Computer Games department rep I have worked closely with the class rep of Year 2 Art & Animation and I am organising a reading workshop to help with the game design module. As well as attending meetings I have also relayed information on various online talks and shared resources that students should find beneficial. I participated in the Student Minds University Mental health charter event and in my future department rep office hours I hope to assist any students who may have any queries to this and any other issues they may be having.

I have found this semester that students are not forthcoming with problems they may be having, or at least do not wish to report them to me in an official capacity. Problems that have become apparent from students from informal discourse seem to be related to course content, volume of work and online learning. All of which I have raised in the appropriate channels.

Personally, I have found that being department rep has been difficult and will require aggressive pursuit to initiate a dialogue. I will contact the class reps and arrange a meeting for brainstorming a new approach that may be more applicable to our discipline.

Vision Sciences Department Rep Report

- Training dep rep
- School board meeting – 9/10/20
- Reps Meeting with Tabitha – 7/10/20
- Sage meeting – 21/10/20
- Sent introduction message to everyone in department via blackboard announcements – 22/10/2020
- Training student voice – 4/11/20
- Student voice – 9/11/20
- Sent email asking best way to communicate 10/11/2020
- Academic rep gathering 18/11/20
- Sent email following up SSCG 22/11/2020

My course has replied to my emails saying their programmes are running smoothly and all issues were dealt with in the SSCG meetings. Staff have already confirmed their action following this meeting. I'm having some difficulty engaging; however the class reps were given the option on the best way to stay in contact and they choose email. Those who have replied to my emails have said they are happy with no concerns.

I'm okay with staying with email due to the heavy course loads in these programmes, and the department staff being very transparent.

LGBT+ Officer Report

As LGBT+ Liberation Officer, I have been making sure to hold weekly meetings held on Collaborate Ultra on different awareness weeks and issues faced within the LGBTQ+ community. The meetings for this semester held are as listed below:

- Bi Day of Visibility and International Lesbian Day – Week 1
- International Coming Out Day – Week 2
- International Pronouns Day – Week 3
- Intersex and Asexual awareness weeks– Week 4
- LGBT+ representation in media – Week 5
- The importance of sober spaces – Week 6
- Trans awareness week and trans day of remembrance – Week 7
- International AIDS Day – Week 9
- Pan Pride week – Week 10
- Winter festivities – Week 11

To go more into detail, these meetings are a time for LGBTQ+ identifying students as well as allies to come together to learn more about issues facing the community, discuss their own thoughts and experiences, and chat to others.

Alongside weekly meetings, I held an Instagram takeover on @gcu_students on November 20th for Trans Day of Remembrance alongside the depute LGBT+ liberation officer, Will Cox. Posts for this included a collage of photos of candles as a sort of virtual vigil, an infographic showing the names of

every trans person who has been murdered this year due to transphobia, tips on being an ally, and another infographic on UK transphobia statistics.

On December 3rd, I will be hosting a common room conversation about gender, discussing with people from different backgrounds what gender and sex mean, what masculinity and femininity mean individually, and other similar topics. I will also be continuing to push for inclusion of gender neutral bathrooms, changing facilities, and the provision of menstrual products in male bathrooms as well.

Societies Council Chair Report

I've currently been attending Societies council meeting, working with the council members to trouble shoot engagement issues in societies. Potential solutions are looking to involve a link between societies and sports groups to encourage members to get away from the screen and get some exercise in order to reduce screen fatigue from both uni and society events being online.

Otherwise, there was a limited uptake in Dragons Den, with only one society applying and presenting for funds. We made the decision to move the rest of the funds to next semester.

The funding league is currently undergoing some adjustment but due to lack of attendance at the last SC meeting it was pushed to the first meeting in second semester.

Finally, We're all working together to promote student membership in societies as this is looking significantly lower across the board.

Care Experience Students' Officer Report

- Have recently had contact from Stephanie Craig who is now the new Deputy CEO
- Created a plan of action to get information out to care experienced students which includes a deadline of the 16th December for our Christmas newsletter.
- Work is in progress to find out information about financial and academical information for care experienced students
- Time has been set aside to learn how to use the care experienced web page.
- Have joined the care experienced Facebook group and Introduced myself and I am currently looking into ways to attract more care experienced students to the page with the help of Stephanie.
- Making plans for a stall for freshers week to bring attention to the issues care experienced students may face and as a point for care experienced students to come and have a chat.

Social Sciences Department Rep Report

- Had a meeting with Rachel Russel discussing how we can work together.
- Emailed the Social Sciences Class Reps so they have my contact details, so we can work together on any issues that arise.
- Attended the GSBS School Board Meeting in October.

Finance, Accounting & Risk Department Rep Report

- Attended all of the training lectures
- Attended all of the meetings
- Created a group chat with the class representatives
- Gathered feedback from the students

- Reported a problem with project dates being too close. Resulted in a change in the deadlines
- Raised an issue with the exam dates. Resulted in a change in some test dates
- Raised a need for more online textbooks for students who don't have access to the library

Ethical & Environmental Officer Report

We have had a successful Tri A so far. We are planning another Netflix Party for during the Christmas break and details will be released in due course. We held a wellbeing walking week from the 16th until the 23rd of November. Participants were encouraged to get outside and walk with emails being sent with an update of the step count of participants. In total, we had 65 participants with societies joining as well. A poll taken afterward asked 'Do you feel the step challenge will push you to do more steps outdoor in the future' with 90% answering yes. Another question asked was if participants enjoyed the activity and 89% said yes. Altogether we completed 2,631, 932 steps over the week. Tips were posted on how to maximise steps taken over the week. We are in the process of confirming our social media schedule for over Christmas, with posts about how to have a sustainable Christmas etc. We are planning on liaising with GCU staff members about Cop26.

Occupational Therapy, Human Nutrition & Dietetics Department Rep Report

- level 2 occupational therapy - SSCG meeting all level 2 representative for occupational therapy attended one SSCG meeting. I had a conversation with 2 reps who have created a group for all reps in this level and discussed feedback to the meeting. I raised a question for confirmation re access to university in Tri B and when a formal notification would be issued. This is to allow students to make an informed decision on accommodation need. This is to allow them to give notice before Christmas for next years accommodation costs if not required on campus for course as its delivered online. I have had confirmation a notice was scheduled to be issued by the 20th November, I don't appear to have received any notification as advised yet and have forwarded this back to Sara as requested.
- I have taken co development role on the student staff engagement forum in response to the ELISR which will be ongoing. Had the first planning meeting and first feedback discussion takes place on 1st December.
- Today I have just received a question from a full time EU Irish student who is looking for information in relation to additional funding announce this week by the Irish Government. The statement was, full time EU graduates in publicly funded institutes, who have been awarded funding need to contact their institution in relation the one off covid 19 grant payment for Irish Students. The student has contacted Student University Support (SUSI) in Ireland and has been advised that GCU needs to engage with Irish international student about this payment. I am hoping for advice on this one as this will probably be relevant to the wider student population and not just level 2 OT.

Mental Health & Wellbeing Officer Report

By the time SV meets the MHW Group committee will have met for the first time and agreed plans for the rest of the year. This is the first time the group has had a committee, and I think it a good sign for the years ahead.

The data on mental wellbeing in Universities across Scotland are challenging and worsening. The pandemic has had an impact on all our mental health. The news that we will continue to learn away from campus in Trimester B, though undoubtedly necessary, will prolong and may exacerbate the mental health problems of students.

Over the summer and since the start of term I've worked with SA officers and Uni staff on some ongoing issues. These included the emails coming out centrally from the Uni, which several students contacted me about. Thanks are due to Susan Docherty for securing Uni agreement that all future comms will be shared in advance with the Student President, to minimise the potential for confusing content which would increase student anxieties. I've been the Student Lead on the Student Mind's Mental Health Accreditation pilot (GCU is the sole Pilot Uni in Scotland); this assessment programme will provide several useful areas for development in the GCU MH provision.

I've met several times with Zoe (As MH Lead on the FTO team) and staff reps to pull together the Student Mental Health Agreement 20/21 between Uni and SA. Look out for a final version shortly.

By the time SV meets, the MH group will also have hosted one of the SA's first Common Room Conversations. We are seeking suggestions from students for online get togethers which would offer something you would want to do – if you have a suggestion, please email mentalhealth@gcustudents.co.uk, text me on 07764 44 1858 or message the group on Facebook.