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| Committee Title | Student Voice | | | | | |
| Date of Meeting | 22 nd March 2021 | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | |

Women's Officer

- Held an Endometriosis event with external speakers that went well and had a good response rate
- Established a Women's Deputy (Saray Freile) and introduced them to the group
- Had to take a week off due to tooth removal but supported Saray in running the email and group before I took time off
- Saray wanted to set up weekly meetings so we tried but response rate was too low to continue
- Created an Instagram takeover for International Women's day
- Created a thank a woman campaign for international women's day
- Wanted to show the film Rafiki for International Women's day but was too busy to find a time so this will be delayed for a couple of weeks

Biology & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep

- Kept in touch with my class reps through social media and phone/internet chats groups.
- Gathered feedback from the latest SSCG meetings and gave suggestions on way to act on the feedback cycle.
- Encouraged my class colleagues and class reps to vote in the Student Association elections and to do the same with their class, while encouraging them to take part on mid trimester modules evaluation surveys.
- 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 and supported fellow students' ideas; these groups were also used to give a point of contact and morale support to fellow students whose mental health has been fragile lately.
- I have spent time encouraging my class colleagues and class reps to take on the advantages of leadership courses and other workshops to support their personal and professional growth.
- I have attended the S.A.G.E meeting on the 3/03/2021

LGBT+ Officer

Over Semester B, student participation has lessened. This is likely due to digital fatigue and Zoom burnout, therefore I made the decision to host less meetings, and focus more on social media presence. The main focus for this semester was the annual Glitter Ball.

Glitter Ball was hosted on February 27th by myself and the deputy LGBT+ Officer Will, with entertainment by local drag queen Lady Rampant, a discussion about the intersections between growing up black and LGBT+, and a quiz hosted by the deputy LGBT+ officer. The event was successful and the feedback from those who attended was overwhelmingly positive.

The end of this month marks Trans Day of Visibility. I am looking to mark the occasion with a of social media posts, and hopefully gain input from other trans and non-binary students for content.

Visual Sciences Department Rep

- Student discussion regarding placements – 08/12/2020
- SAGE meeting – 03/03/2021
- School board meeting - 03/02/2021
- Class rep check in tri B email - 15/02/2021
- Class rep update email – 24/02/2021
- Class rep survey for exam time restriction changes – 08/03/2021

- Class rep meeting post SSCG - 10/03/2021
- Email to full time officer asking for SA policy – 10/03/2021

Exam time restrictions are ongoing discussions with the staff. The survey demonstrated that students were worried about external factors hindering their ability to perform a timed exam. A survey was created, class reps were advised how to proceed in their SSCG meeting, and the staff are reviewing the change. A full time officer has been asked to look into this policy change from a SA stand point. Will review and meet with staff following their meeting and their reply. Class reps will also be given information to help students who need extra time.

Mechanical Engineering Department Rep

So far this year, I have participated in numerous meetings with SCEBE board members, discussing student wellbeing, the effects the pandemic has on teaching and online learning, and focusing on the 'non detriment effect' policy which is now known as the 'fair assessment' policy. In the meetings, I have vocalised my personal experience from this year and how it has affected my own learning, as well as raising concerns for other students I am aware of.

I have requested a list of class reps a few times and have yet to receive any, however I am aware of one class rep who I am also friends with out of University. I have had discussions with several students to see if they have any concerns within the department and have written emails to express these concerns. Emails have been exchanged with the head of department, the student president, Susan, and the student voice Zoe.

As an unpaid carer, myself, I have expressed anxieties I share with many other students on how tough this year has been, thus I have actively fought for the students to be offered the 'fair assessment' policy. The policy has been reintroduced for this year.

I have taken part in online workshops for department reps which I have thoroughly enjoyed. This has given me a level of confidence to work with groups and to be a team leader.

I am very privileged to have been selected for the department representative role, and I hope my involvement has helped to make positive change to students' experiences at GCU.

Civil Engineering & Environmental Management Department Rep

Having now been in the role for around 6 months I am comfortable and familiar with the expectations and how best to carry out what is required. The WhatsApp groups that I established at the start of my role and are now used on a regular basis as a platform for class reps to keep in touch with each other and pass on any information they think is appropriate to me. In addition to engagement with class reps I have been involved with an ELISR review for the applied computer games department, have taken part in all student voice meetings and attended SAGE and SCEBE school meetings when possible.

Through discussion with reps and staff it has been brought to my attention that the civil engineering and environmental management department could improve engagement and representation, a society for the department is now being considered with a focus on social interaction (albeit online currently) out with timetabled classes. I have also worked closely with final year EM class reps and set up an online event between 4th year and 1st year students as an opportunity for networking, engagement and support. Feedback from the online student event and discussion surrounding a society have been very positive. Issues concerning feedback, poor communication from staff to students, and confusion over emails seem to be consistent across the programmes I represent so is a matter I hope to discuss further at SCEBE school meetings.

Finance, Accounting & Risk Department Rep

- Attended all of the meetings
- Gathered and reported feedback related to issues with the exams in an online environment
- Gathered general feedback from the students
- Reported a problem with the time duration of some of the exams. This resulted in extra time given for future exams of the same type
- Raised an issue with some of the project deadlines being too close. This resulted in a change of the dates
- Raised a need for more online textbooks for students who don't have access to the library

Societies Council Chair

Societies council has revised the societies funding league and other funding for students for next year. The funding league is now 70% (down from 75%) of funding, Starter society funding is the same and can be carried over, Dragon's den is still 10%, and we have implemented a societies of the month competition wherein the society with the biggest increase in members over a month earns a cash prize (coming from 5% of societies league funding) between September and April of the Academic year.

The weighting for the funding league has been adapted:

1. Registered for the coming year by the deadline.
2. All committee members attend committee training (changed from society pack by deadline)
3. Society pack submitted by deadline (changed from 1-2-1 attended)
4. 1-2-1 with societies coordinator attended (changed from all committee members complete student leaders)
5. Evidence of self-funding (i.e. fundraiser, membership fee, selling goods) (changed from at least 3 events created on S.A. website)
6. 50% of committee members complete student leaders programme (changed from charge a fee)
7. at least 3 events created on S.A. website (changed from no. of members)

The societies council has also opened up dragons den again, and have started recruitment for next year's council.

We will have our final meeting of the year in the beginning of April.

Nursing & Community Health Department Rep

This semester has been a challenging one for Nursing students with multiple changes to their programme flow. I have supported fellow reps as they have been overwhelmed with the number of responses from students. I have felt it has been really helpful to have a peer support group for our Nursing reps as we have come to support one another better during this isolating time.

During discussions with fellow reps we felt that one SSCG was not enough this semester due to the uncertainty of changes and student anxieties, so I suggested we have year group meetings with staff on a regular basis. Our student reps feel this has significantly improved communication between staff and students and there is a regular platform to address any concerns.

I have had 1-1 meetings with our programme lead when issues have arisen and impacted our cohort, needing discussed quite urgently.

Physiology & Paramedicine Department Rep

- Made myself available in WhatsApp groups to all the Physio and Paramedicine Class reps
- Helped Level 3 Physio Class Reps prepare info for their SSCM
- Accepted an invitation to join BSc Physio meeting regarding an options appraisal for APP marks in BSc Physio. Within this meeting I represented all physiotherapy students and promoted the importance of student wellbeing in the decisions that were to be made. At the end of this meeting, I asked the programme lead if he could involve more students in the decision making. The programme lead agreed so I arranged a Teams meeting that suited both the Physio Programme Lead and some Class Reps. This meeting went well, and BSc Physio is closer to making a decision how they will mark our APP forms and normalise our marks for classifications.

Media & Journalism Department Rep

Activities completed in Trimester B:

- Reached out to the Students as Trimester B started to catch up with them and see how they are doing.
- Held a meeting with the 4th Year Media and Communications Class Reps to talk about the complaints and feedback they had from their fellow students. This resulted in e-mail correspondence with the Head of Department as well as the 4th Year Media and Journalism Class Rep (23rd January 2021). To address all of the issues and feedback a meeting was held between myself, the 4th year Media and Journalism and The 4th Year Media and Communications class reps and the Head of the Department – Ben McConville (26th January 2021).
- Attended Student Voice (8th February 2021).
- Scheduled and attended a meeting with the 3rd Year Media and Communications Class Rep (16th February 2021) in regard to concerns about the Research Methods module. This resulted in e-mailing the Head of Department and then forwarding the response to the Class Rep.
- Attended the School Board Meeting (17th February 2021).
- Attended the SAGE Committee Meeting (3rd March 2021).
- Signed up to be a Student Panel Member at the Department of Social Science Reviews – ELISR.

Sports Council Chair

- The Sports Council affiliated the new GCU Tennis club at the last meeting on 04/03/21
- Throughout the month of February, GCU Wolves shared a number of posts about LGBT+ History Month, involving all sports teams as well as the LGBT+ society
- The events sub-committee is currently planning for our Sports Awards Night in absence of the 20/21 Annual Sports Ball
- Students are currently taking part in the Strava Cup challenge in absence of the Glasgow Taxi's cup, involving all university students from GCU, GU & Strathclyde
- Majority of sports clubs have elected and registered their committees for 2021/22 and are currently in the 4 week handover period
- Sports Council will be advertising for new members in the coming weeks which will see a full new council

Cyber Security & Networks Department Rep

Based on class rep feedback, some issues and questions were raised and subsequently resolved. The Head of Department attended a class in December to address an issue that the students had raised.

The Head of Department also came to me in January with concerns over the use of discord during exams, as there had been reports of students cheating. As the university had been allowing reps to promote discord during lectures, this was a concern. I addressed this with the discord moderators and chat privileges are now suspended during exam times. This was also relayed to the student body via the class reps.

I was also part of the Computing department programme review board on the 28th and 29th of January.

Recently, concerns have been raised by the 4th year Cyber Security and Networks and Computer Networking students regarding on-campus assessments. They've been informed by Kenny Ovens that the assessments will take place on campus to ensure that there will be no collaboration, and understandably many students have safety concerns about this. I have brought this to the attention of Zoe Nicholson who has passed it on to the Dean of Learning for clarification.

Ethical & Environmental Officer

We have been attending our usual meetings and have another speaker event planned for the end of April. We are starting to work on Green Impact Reports and gathering evidence of what we have been up to all year including behind-the-scenes work.

We held our first Speaker event on the 17th of March around the topic of COP26 and Climate Activism and it was a great success. Matt Crilly (NUS Scotland President) and Brian Robertson (Glasgow City Council- COP 26 Volunteer Manager) came along to speak to those attending. We had a good turnout considering it was an online event and a good discussion was had amongst attendees and invited guests regarding COP26 and Climate Activism.

Monica has been primarily posting on Facebook and Elisabeth on Instagram. We are very aware that things are still overwhelming due to still learning online, so we don't want to bog students down with information, but we are still making an effort to engage. Adil has been very helpful with sharing resources with us and any emails he thinks may be of interest to us. Any opportunities that we think students would benefit from have been shared on the Facebook page and are sent out in emails as well.

We are currently sitting at 25 signed up members which we are quite pleased with considering we have been only online this year.