

Committee Title	Student Voice					
Date of Meeting	27 th November 2017					
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? If yes, please state the committee and proposed date of submission.	No					

Ethical and Environmental Officer

Currently working on the following projects:

- The Wee Green Survey. This was published on 14/11/17.
- Ecosia Proposal. This was submitted to the VP GBSS on 20/11/17.
- Desk Plant poster for staff. This has been completed and will be circulated by the VP GSBS.

As part of the Green Impact Award, one criteria is to circulate the NUS Sustainability Skills Survey. We received 208 responses, over 4 times more than last year.

LGBT+ Officer

- Received interest and support from upwards of 90 people during two-day Fresher's Fayre.
- Held weekly meetings on a Wednesday night with regular attendance of 20-35 people at each.
- Hosted discussion with GCU Men's Football second team captain about LGBT+ inclusivity in sports.
- Worked alongside men and women's football teams in supporting Stonewall's Rainbow laces campaign.
- Held a 'coming out' party for National Coming Out Day where members shared coming out stories, and encouraged, and supported one another through their worries and thoughts.
- Opened a new committee position for Transgender representative.
- Held a vigil on campus to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance (20th November).

Sports Council Chair

- Unified GCU Sports under one brand, the GCU Wolves. Have been successful in integrating the brand into the University and Student Experience.
- Dual effect of new sports strategy and Wolf Brand have seen greater membership numbers in the first half of the 1st semester than last year's overall total. Currently on track to break the record of highest sports memberships ever in a year. Aiming to reach between 800 -1000 memberships by the end of the academic year.
- Have affiliated ourselves with a developing nutritional company, "Easy Nutrition", founded by a current GCU member. First step in developing the brand and making Sports at GCU more professional.
- Currently looking to revise the branding and merchandising guidelines to ensure continuity between all sports clubs to solidify the unity under the one brand.
- First year of the "Focus Sports" Programme. Currently developing the benefits to be bequeathed onto these selected clubs through monetary and club development aid.
- Created a plan to ensure adequate use of "Team of the Week" bottle. Ensuring the bottle is distributed fairly to clubs allowing them to ask for a certain week if available. Helps in distributing student ran sports events more evenly over the academic year.
- Currently in talks with GCU Student events to help promote the Wolf brand further and potential to expand GCU sports, due to positive response from university officials. Potentially looking at creating a GCU Wolves promo video showing off all the clubs.
- Considering purchasing a wolf mascot costume to be used at large sports events and Freshers.

GSBS Taught Postgraduate Student Representative

I plan to:

- Engagement with class reps
- Supporting the full-time officers
- Been photographing events at GCU for the Association and promoting events so looking forward to doing that.

Have worked on:

- Appointed last week so nothing yet

I intend to work on:

- Prominent issues raised by postgrad reps
- Assisting and supporting other officers from my school

LEAR Officer

One | Timetabling Issues

- [1] In the course of this trimester I have received a number of complaints about the current timetabling system at GCU.
- [2] To this end I put together a questionnaire (blank copy enclosed) to collate quantitative and qualitative evidence on the issue.
- [3] The response rate to this questionnaire was a disappointing 4.
- [4] The persons surveyed by this questionnaire were the class reps in LEAR for whom I had details for; who were asked to answer on behalf of their respective cohorts.
- [5] The results of this survey reflect their views and comments accurately. I have not edited any responses.
- [6] An account of the results follows;
 - a. The results of question 1 indicate 75% of class reps are dissatisfied, with 25% satisfied.
 - b. Select quotes from question 2 say that; *"In general, there are huge gaps or days where there is only 1 class that sees poor attendance. A more condensed set of classes, perhaps all classes over 2/3 days, would also assist people to arrange work experience related to their degree."*
 - c. The results of question 3 indicate 50% are not happy to have classes scheduled until 6pm, while 50% are; provided timetables do not change after they are issued.
 - d. The results of question 4 indicate 75% do not feel they have adequate breaks between classes, while 25% feel that they do.
 - e. The results of question 5 indicate that 75% of students wish the system to change, while 25% do not.
 - f. Select quotes from question 6 say that;
 - i. *"Allow academics to create timetable changes easily for students allowing for less 2hr/3hr gaps and try condense our days so we're not in for a full 9-6 day when it could easily be less."*
 - g. The results from question 7 indicate 0% of students feel the university has broken an agreement, while 100% do not.
 - h. Select quotes from question 8 say that;
 - i. *"In regards to [Edit: Question 7] 7, being in till 6 is a main issue for my year as not everyone lives locally."*
- [7] Furthermore, through interaction from students, they have raised the following issues;
 - a. *"...I am scheduled to be in lectures until 6pm. Being a single parent of two young children, this is extremely inconvenient and I find it very difficult to arrange child care to accommodate this."*

And "...Had I known I would be in lectures until 6pm, I would not have been able to make a commitment to attend GCU and would have chosen a university more accommodating of my needs as a mature student and single parent."

[8] The results of this survey have been made anonymous. I cannot reveal any personal data without first gaining the consent of the appropriate person(s).

[9] This report was drafted on 18 November 2017. Figures are correct to that date.

Two | Example Timetabling Questionnaire

LEAR Class Rep Survey

5 November 2017

As part of my role as school officer it is my job to support the class reps in dealing with any broader issues that affect us at a school wide level. To this end I have frequently received complaints about the current timetabling system.

In the 2015-16 session the university moved to a new electronic timetable system. Part of the agreement was that students would be able to be timetabled until 6pm, and in return they would receive their timetables early to allow them to plan their life and work around classes. Complaints have indicated that students are not happy with this, and that frequent changes to timetables, even when classes are in session, render any agreement moot.

I'm attempting to collate evidence to present to the university, and so I would be delighted if you would complete this questionnaire. Please answer honestly, I hope to present an honest and fair report based on all answers given here; whether they are in favour of altering the system or otherwise.

Your name will be withheld from any report I present (unless you would prefer I include it), however your comments and answers will be taken into account.

The survey is below. Please mark the appropriate box with an "X", and where the question asks for a reason, please also provide this.

1) Are your cohort happy with the current timetabling system at GCU?

Yes	No

2) What would your cohort describe as being the major issues with timetabling? Please provide comments. If you are happy, please use this space to tell us why.

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3) Would your cohort be willing to stay in until 6pm if timetables did not change after issuing?

Yes	No

4) Do your cohort have adequate breaks between classes? Please provide comments if either you do not have enough breaks; or your breaks are too long to be practicable; or if you do not have an issue with them.

Yes	No

Comments:

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5) Do your cohort want the timetabling system to change?

Yes	No

6) Do you have any suggestions as to how we should change the timetables?

Comments:

7) As mentioned above, it was agreed between the students' association and the university that classes could be timetabled to finish at 6pm, and in return students would receive their timetables early. Do your cohort think that the university has honoured this agreement?

Yes	No

8) Do you have any further comments on the issue? Please use this space to provide anonymous comments from classmates if they have any; to provide your own opinion; to highlight any other issues not identified in the survey; or to tell us why timetables are not an issue for you and your class.

Comments:

Thank you for completing this survey. It will play a vital role in the report I am compiling, and I will keep you updated with any progress I make.

If your classmates wish to register their own complaints or defences about the system directly with me, please refer to them my email address.

If there are any further issues that you feel I should be aware of, please feel free to get in touch.

Ross Wilson
School Officer | Law, Economics, Accountancy & Risk
e: learofficer@gcustudents.co.uk

Three | Conclusion

- [1] I intend to use the results of this data as evidence to attempt to address timetabling issues with the University.
- [2] As the results of my initial survey are drawn from a disappointingly low response rate, I would ask Student Voice to assist me in gathering further data, to make any recommendation to the university more authoritative.
- [3] I would suggest that other School Officers send a copy of this survey to their respective class reps in order to gather further information.
- [4] This concludes my written report for the second meeting of Student Voice.

Nursing and Community Health (NCH) Officer

Engagement with Class Reps

I have regular e-mail contact with the class reps from the school.

I have invited them all to join a dedicated Facebook page for the class reps within the school, this will help maintain and improve communication between myself and the class reps. On this page, I try to post at least once a week to make sure that the reps are up to date with forthcoming events that they can attend.

Currently, I am trying to organise face to face meeting with the class reps from the school, I am aiming for these to be on a monthly basis, timetabling and their placements permitting.

Engagement with School/Department

I have, via e-mail, introduced myself to the key contacts within the school.

A meeting has taken place with the Head of Department NCH, this was a brief meeting, another meeting is being scheduled, no concrete date has been set yet.

Three meetings have taken place with the Programme Lead, more will be scheduled once the deputy programme lead is announced and in place.

I have attended the School Board meeting and the Nursing Studies Programme Board meeting, the Student Voice meeting and the SAGE meeting.

Future Work

Going forward, I intent to maintain communication with class reps, encouraging them to attend class rep training and engage in the student leaders programme.

The class reps will be kept up to date with what I am doing via the Facebook page and regular e-mails.

I fully intend to actively participate in the meetings with class reps, staff, board and student association. I will be able to give a further update to this point once my next clinical placement is known.

I have had discussions with staff within NCH regarding student engagement with The National Student Survey (NSS), these will be on-going.

Radio Station Manager

This Freshers has seen us many successes which we have been needing for a long time. The two main points which we set out to achieve were obtaining new volunteers, and also raising money for the events of the semester.

In terms of new volunteers, we got over 100 new people and many more returning members. This is one of the most successful years in recent times. Our timetable allocation is ongoing with most shows already geared to go – the rest having to fit around individual availabilities. Our shows are broad and we have people at all levels of experience.

Money was a big success for us. Having provided support for every major Freshers event, as well as putting on our own SAASMASS event, we raised over £1000 for the station, much of it has already been reinvested in maintaining the annual wear and tear of equipment, as well as going to updating our music databases and web look. We made just shy of £400 profit from SAASMASS and so are planning on doing another one in the near future.

Event support is a big fundraising and experience opportunity for us, and it also raises our awareness around campus. We are currently revising the method in which this works because it is a bit too successful – Alex and his team are booked almost every night. We aim to have this optimised by next semester at the latest.

Multimedia is another priority for us this year and we intend to cover as much as possible in terms of generating audio for our shows and photos/videos online. We aim to expand our online presence as much as possible to ensure that there is a reputation for students to be proud of when submitting their Radio Caley shows as portfolio pieces, and demos.

BM Officer

1. How long have I been a School Officer

Although I was informed about obtaining the role earlier this year, I only received the training on 7th of November 2017 (3 weeks).

2. Meetings

2.1 Plan of Action – 27th October 2017

Discussed generally about my role and possible objectives to work towards this year.

2.2 Meeting of School Board's Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee – 4th of October 2017

First meeting, where I could meet the other School Officer as well as the Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee. We discussed the Agenda containing, among others, previous meeting reports, Academic Quality and Development report, LTQ Plan and GSBS NSS Action Plan.

2.3 S.A.G.E. – 1st November 2017

First SAGE meeting of 2017 and the agenda was as follows:

- 1.) S.A.G.E Terms Of Reference & Remit
- 2.) Full Time Officer Update
 - President Update - VP SEBE Update - VP SHLS Update
- 2.) Academic Quality & Development Update - Programme Approval and Review Panels (Attached Document)
- 3.) 2018 Student Experience Summit
- 4.) Class Rep Review Findings Report Discussion (Attached Document)
- 5.) Trimester A Academic Rep Gathering Planning
- 6.) Teaching Awards Promotion
- 7.) AOCB

2.4 Academic Rep Gathering (will attend) 22nd November 2017 13:00 – 16:00

3. Engagement with Class Reps. (so far)
 - 3.1. Individual help required for certain academic issues
 - 3.2. E-mail towards all the Class Reps welcoming them to the role and presenting myself
 - 3.3. Created a Facebook group to communicate easier. Anyone can add themselves to it by accessing a link sent via e-mail.
 - 3.4. Stated the purpose of the Facebook group
 - 3.5. Reminder sent about the event: Academic Rep Gathering (22nd of November 2017)
4. Engagement with Class Reps. (further)
 - 4.1 Setting a time each week in which I can meet Class Reps to discuss on any difficulties they may encounter.

Social Sciences Media and Journalism Officer

What I've worked on

I have not had a chance to work on many projects because I was only appointed at the beginning of November and received training about two weeks ago. However, I attended the SAGE meeting on Wednesday 1 November and have emailed the class reps in the social science, media and journalism department to introduce myself and invite them to the rep gathering on Wednesday 22 November which I will be attending too.

What I plan to work on

In the upcoming weeks I plan to chat with student reps within the department to discuss any issues or praise they might have so I can report this back and help solve any problems.

Engineering Officer

1. Identifying ongoing issues with IT and working with staff to resolve – ongoing
2. Supporting yr 3 students with lecture issues and resolution to those issues – ongoing
3. Supporting a student suffering with pneumonia to ensure it is recorded in the event mits required, also introducing to overall support route in school – ongoing

4. Using position as school officer to bring awareness throughout school with respect to engineering and other school societies endeavours to integrate communication and interaction for professional events – ongoing
5. Working across 5 SSCG groups to resolve issues raised and concerns students had about support from fellow students – ongoing
6. Working with schools to confirm and collate updated class rep lists and have the main list updated, long and drawn out – ongoing
7. Ongoing support to FTO with their tasks within the school and university.
8. Working to have SSCG minutes available as soon as possible, within 2 weeks, of meeting – just uptaken.

Disabled Students' Officer

The two Disability Officers have met a few times to discuss the path we'd like to take the Disability Group and have focused so far on:

- Contacting those who have joined the disabled students association/group.
- Looking at a campaign around students supporting their well-being and mental health around Christmas time.
- Sign-posting students to the disability service for any support they may need from their faculty.
- Focusing on mainly invisible illnesses and mental health, as it's where most of our lived experience comes from.

We are aware that Disability Awareness Month has also started and have spoken with other staff from the Students' Association regarding getting some communication out to the students through official channels.

Editor-in-Chief Report

In this trimester, The EDIT has made more substantial progress and gained significant outreach to GCU students. This has been a result of a lot of different pieces of work and contributions from volunteers.

Highlights include:

- Successfully printed and distributed Freshers Edition. 500 copies were printed with the edition also being 32 pages long for the first time (up from 28).
- Christmas Edition produced and has been sent to print. Again, 500 copies are to be printed and was agreed by the committee that due to the high demand of contributions, in future all editions would be this length.
- Secured a long term deal with Dominos' and BaxterStorey for advertising to secure EDIT's financial position. These deals greatly cover The EDIT's running costs and will continue to allow at least 3 printed editions per academic year.
- Developed the new EDIT space to be a lot more welcoming to students. All Association volunteers are encouraged to come and use the space.
- A new Social Media Team has been created, in order to greatly improve the outreach of the magazine.
- Launched Student Group Spotlight – a feature on The EDIT website to allow student groups to promote their group in an article format.
- Updated The EDIT policy (to be presented at the November Student Voice 2017) to include new committee roles as well as more accurately reflect the operational running of the student magazine.