

Committee Title	Student Voice					
Date of Meeting	10 th February 2020					
Title/Subject	Student Voice Officer 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Any member can ask a question by raising their voting card and being recognised by the Chair to speak.					
	Student Voice are asked to approve the Student Voice Officers Reports					
Who have you consulted when developing the paper?	Unknown					
Staff/Student Protocol	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.						

Chair of Societies Council Student Voice Report

Since the last Student Voice, the council has had one more official meeting and an event planning meeting.

7 societies have been approved since last student voice.

The culture and faith societies were invited to a coffee morning held by the Head of Culture and Faith Societies.

The societies wall is now finished and is up in the Re:Union Bar & Grill.

We held a joint event and invited societies and liberation and representation groups. The event was held on Tuesday 28th of January. It was photobooth themed with food in NH208 and then games and the photobooth were set up in the Re:Union. The event was a success with many societies and groups getting involved. The council will be having a meeting to debrief and decide what worked and what didn't for the event.

We approved a policy change that looks at how to handle activated societies that have fallen quiet.

Dragon's den was discussed, and it was decided not to go ahead with it as there isn't much interest in the second trimester and it would be more beneficial to save the funds for something else.

Psychology Department Rep

Since the last student voice I attended the SHLS School Board in December and there is another scheduled in February and April.

Resolved issues with the Head of Psychology around the SSCG, as there was a miscommunication between student representatives and staff that representatives are not responsible for communicating feedback to module leaders and that students should email individually, which has been rectified and communicated appropriately.

Still waiting on confirmation with student representatives, I have four in my list so far hoping for a full list in the next week.

However, have emailed the current student representatives and hoping to meet them in the coming weeks.

Attended SHLS Academic Rep Networking Session which was mainly student representatives and so I got to understand their role more and any issues they have.

Social Work Department Representative

Things planned:

- Attend SHLS School Board Meeting on 14th of February
- Attend Spring Rep Gathering on 18th March
- Engage with students further to enrol them in the Peer supported communities
- "Drop-in" afternoon at end of February to meet more students
- Engagement and partnership with the Social Work Society

Overall I feel that there are the same issues with student engagement as there was in previous year, therefore I will work in partnership with the department so students are informed of the roles of department representative and are aware of the existence and purpose of the role.

Previously, engaging in social gatherings seemed to be effective, therefore this will be utilised further to engage students, especially class representatives.

Trimester A seemed to be a quiet trimester with limited opportunities for engagement.

Student Voice Report – Department Rep for Management and HRM

Zubair Sarwar

I have been in contact with some class reps that report to myself. It has been great to find out their insights and what they have found occurring across years 1-4.

Overall, the feedback I have received from class reps has been positive. It has been reported to me that first year in particular are enjoying life at GCU. It is encouraging that most students are aware of the facilities; the library, LDC and career centre etc. The teaching methods were praised as students from first year were enjoying their seminars.

However, it was brought up to my attention that in the HR seminar for first years, only a few people engage to the activities (such as answering the questions for the reading). So, there was a suggestion of more group work activities to be undertaken and for the following week's seminar it was changed to compensate this need. Therefore, the class rep reporting to me praised that it was good to see that change does happen.

I also attended the second school board meeting for the academic year. I raised the issue that had been occurring from within my own peers, which involved the marking and feedback on assessments. There was an issue where the marking and feedback for assessments wasn't consistent, as students argued that they had written something similar in an assessment to their peer, however the feedback received on this was different. I mentioned this at the school board and the point was taken into account which will be dealt with. I fed this back into the student body and they were pleased with the outcome.

Lastly, I have received an up-to-date list of the current class reps with my department. I will be getting into contact with them shortly to discuss any further matters within the student body.

Sports Council Chair Report

Key activities in Tri A

- New Clubs
 - o Affiliation of two new clubs (Weightlifting and orienteering) and in the process of affiliating Rec football
- Sports ball
 - o Organisation of annual sports ball. To be held on the 4th of April in the Double Tree Hilton. 197 tickets sold as of last sports council meeting.
- Finance

- Finance plan to address facilities overspend. Due to rise in facilities hire cost and increased club affiliation there was on overspend on facilities. Over the past 2 years this has been compensated for by the membership pot, however, it has inhibited the ability for the sports council to develop sports at GCU due to a limited budget. A finance committee was created to propose solutions. The committee suggested an increase in membership fee would manage the increase in facilities cost and the sports council agreed to this idea. In February clubs are being asked about this increase in membership and the impact this would have on them and what they would like to see from the SA in return for the increased cost.
- Awards
 - Sports council have voted to introduce a Most Improved Team award (this award was introduced last year however it was not formalised in the sports policy which is an action point for this year's council).
 - There was also a vote to add engaging with a 1-2-1 with the sports coordinator as a criterion for club/team awards.
- Pride Week
 - Due to Pride celebrations typically falling over summer the sports council wanted to engage in a pride week to promote inclusivity in sports at GCU. It will be held in the last week of February (24th-28th) as February is LGBT History Month. This week is still being planned but some ideas from sports council include: LGBT in Sport: Short Profiles of famous LGBT sportspeople in different sports, creating a GCU Sport Pride Flag by having different clubs wear solid pride colours and collating them into one image and there is also the potential to go to Polo for the Sports Social.
- Re:union
 - Sports council is continuing to liaise with management at Re:union to increase engagement from students. However, we think that the biggest push will be in competing as a sponsor against bars and pubs for next year as many clubs this year have existing sponsorship agreements.

Update report from David Grimm – care experienced liberation officer.

Since the last report before Christmas we have:

- Had our Application to the common good accepted but lower amount granted than expected so will be using the money for badges...potentially saying “proud to be care aware” (work in progress)
- Attended an information day with Rachel Hyslop which was centred on informing the heads of school in SHLS about corporate parenting.
- Staff development day still in discussions between Rachel Hyslop, the vice dean of SHLS and others.
- Still no meeting as a group to date, but communications have started to get better and the group are hoping to meet and grow in size.
- Myself, Rachel Hyslop and Bethany Stevenson have all been working together to try and develop the presence of our care experienced population on campus, aiming to better their experience whilst at Glasgow Caledonian and we've started to make some headway.
- Myself, Rachel and Bethany all attended a meeting of the universities corporate parenting strategy board.
- discussions around the current intake of students and how we can increase the number of self-identifying students (students who tick the care experienced box), how we as a university can support people to embrace this and how we can support them to feel comfortable and supported to declare their experience.
- Invited to meet with the university's Senate committee in 2020 to explore ways that the care experienced community and the university may work together to change the current culture of the university and make it as accepting and as knowledgeable about care as we possibly can.

- Initial discussions underway on developing a training tool or resource to be rolled out amongst all staff in all schools that would explain what care experience is and how it might affect students whilst in a university setting.
 - Released an update blog piece in conjunction with the students association, to inform the whole university of what I have carried out lately and since taking the role of care experienced officer.
 - Represented the care experienced group at refreshers fayre in January, several discussions had and hopefully will see new members join the group.
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Biological & Biomedical Sciences Department Rep

-Attended Student Voice on 25/11/19

-Attended pre-meeting for SHLS School Board on 11/12/19

-Attended with voting rights SHLS School Board meeting on 11/12/19

-Contacted certain class reps to discuss points arising from their SSCG meetings on 13/12/19

-Contacted all class reps to welcome back for trimester B & offer support on 29/1/20

Women's Officer

In Trimester A, we established ourselves by launching social media and engaging with students to join the group. In October, an introductory evening session was arranged which unfortunately engaged a low number of students, however on later evaluation, this was down to timing.

As Women's Officer, I represented GCU and the group in various events throughout the city and worked on securing partnerships for later events.

In Trimester B we have a panel discussion planned around diversity in sustainability (particularly from a female ethnic minority perspective). At the point of writing this paper, these dates are unconfirmed, but are planned for Go Green Week.

Further, we are planning to launch our lunch seminar/talks at the end of February and currently in discussion about various workshops with speakers – topics and themes to be confirmed.

Currently in a discussion with BETA Scotland (local NGO) to secure subsidized spaces for members to their autumn conference and a range of events for those interested in engaging in local and European politics.

Vision science department rep

Since the last student voice report I have been communicating with my class reps to bring forward any issues they may have, although none have arisen. I passed on information from the last student voice regarding relevant issues to Vision Sciences such as strike action outcomes/duration and the GCU blackboard changes to the class reps allowing them to inform other students.

In the next few weeks I plan to continue regular contact with class reps, keeping them updated on any relevant information and welcome any new class reps which may have joined the team

THE EDIT Editor in Chief report

Not too much of an update to give as we haven't really started for the year.

The Christmas edition went well as did the Christmas Event.

Have a sub team of the committee working on the elections edition and as far as I'm aware it is going well.

Currently working on the dates for the spring edition and planning events for the rest of the year--first committee meeting is the 4th of February so will give a verbal update at voice.

Started to assist with ELIR promotion and we are continuing the NUS blogs this year.

29th Jan- 94 members when memberships from Freshers go through it should be a record 100 members.

Re:Freshers was okay, a hit and a miss but that's to be expected.

Working in collaboration with the student wellbeing team and the Ethical and Environmental group during Go Green Week.

Podiatry & Radiography Department Rep Report

- I emailed the class reps in October 2019 after my training and getting access to the email account, introducing myself
 - I created a Facebook group for the class reps and have sent them through the information, letting them know that it is a place for discussion of any issues that may arise
 - I am a member of the Radiography society within the university, which allows me to understand if there are any issues regarding the radiography students
 - I emailed the class reps again in January 2020, with the updated list, again reiterating that I am free to contact whenever. I also pointed them towards the student voice page and explained what it is, in case anybody has any ideas but feels uneasy bringing them to myself
 - I attended the SAGE meeting where banded marking was discussed
 - I attended a Student Voice meeting
 - I have introduced myself to several staff members as the Department rep, to open a line of communication with them
 - I will continue to attend Student Voice, SAGE and SHLS Board meetings where possible
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Kirsty Winter – Department Rep for Electrical & Electronic Engineering.

- 4th year Full-Time Student studying Electrical & Electronic Engineering with Mechatronics.
- Having been a Class Rep in 2nd year, I considered applying for the Department Rep role this year.
- The main reason for joining was to have the opportunity to network and meet new people in different societies and roles at University. To this point, it has been a great way to develop my leadership skills and since beginning, I have been able to have a say at various meetings in order to make a positive difference to the learning experience of the students within my department. The training carried out at the start of the Trimester made clear what our aims and objectives would be as Department Rep.
- Primarily, I made sure everyone within the department knew who I was and how they were able to contact me if they needed to raise any issues.
- I received the majority of my feedback through personally speaking to students within my department around GCU and if any of them had any issues within their programme, I was able to support them to raise this within their SSCG.
- Throughout my time as Department Rep so far, I have attended and took part in both Student Voice meetings. Unfortunately, I have not been able to attend any School Board meetings or Academic Rep Gatherings due to conflicting timetables.

- Attending Student Voice meeting presented the opportunity to meet other Officers, Committees and all the Department Reps. It was interesting to hear what the Full-Time Officers (FTO) had been working on. They mentioned their progress on the Team Objectives such as HEAR (Higher Education Achievement Records), We all Stand Together and Diversity of Thought.
- FTO's also updated us on what areas they were trying to improve for the university such as having exams before Christmas, phasing out single use coffee cups and creating a mature student space. Many of these suggestions came about from the "ideas" page on the Students Association website. One of the main ideas that was successful last year was abolishing graduation fees starting in Spring 2020.
- In my four years at GCU, I had never heard of this platform and I felt it was important to spread the word about this amongst class reps and encourage them to use this if they had any suggestions. I also mentioned this to many of my friends/colleagues throughout GCU and many of them were also unaware of it.
- There was an update of the Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR) where Lesley McAleavy explained where the University is with the ELIR and the process of it. The final submission was available for us to read and it was interesting to see how students can get involved.
- UCU Industrial Action - GCU employees who are members of the University and Colleges Union (UCU) voted to go on strike. The reasons for the strike were explained to us and we were kept informed on what will happen.
- During the first Student Voice we had our say and discussed banded grading at GCU. We were updated on this matter during the previous Student Voice.
- Overall, it has been a great opportunity so far to be able to represent and act as the voice for the students within my department. I have been able to feedback any key issues brought up by them to try and enhance the student learning experience at

GCU and the Students Association.