

Committee Title	Student Voice
Date of Meeting	27 th November 2017
Item Number and Title/Subject	Care Experienced Students and Student Carers representation groups
Paper Presenter	Rachel Simpson, Vice President GSBS
Brief Summary of Issues/Topic	<p>Here at GCU Students' Association, we are passionate about ensuring that every voice is heard, and that there is an equal and diverse representation of students in the association. This is why I'm putting forward the proposal to establish two new student led representation groups.</p> <p>The representation groups would be for Care Experienced Students and Student Carers respectively.</p> <p>Why a representation group for Student Carers?</p> <p>As Chair of the Equality and Diversity Committee, I recognise the importance of having a diverse range of experiences and voices of individuals being heard in decision making bodies. The importance of having the experiences of students who are impacted by their experiences in the care sector is currently reflected both by the current place for a Student Carer on this committee; as well as the university's Student Carers Policy which was introduced last year.</p> <p>It is therefore essential that the voices of individuals who will be impacted by policies are heard in constituted groups; so that these can be heard in discussions with the university. This is why I would love to see the establishment of a Student Carers representation group.</p> <p>This group would be in line with the sector, as there are representation groups for Student Carers within the Students' Associations at Strathclyde, and Edinburgh University.</p> <p>Why a representation group for Care Experienced People?</p> <p>Aside from the points made previously in regards to why it is essential to have established representation groups, I feel it would be extremely beneficial to have a place for the voices and experiences of care experienced students to be expressed in an open environment.</p> <p>One such example of this benefit could come from the fact that GCU are currently a Corporate Parent. A Corporate parent is a public body which is named in law as having responsibilities to ensure the wellbeing of care</p>

	<p>experienced students.</p> <p>Due to this, the university have established a Corporate Parenting Steering group which is chaired by the head of the GCU Outreach department. The primary function of the Group is to oversee the development, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation of the University's Corporate Parenting Strategy and Action Plan.</p> <p>I have been in consultations with the university who have given this idea their full endorsement; and have explained they would love for this group to input in their Corporate Parenting Steering Group, in addition to the students who sit in their working group in open student positions.</p>					
Recommendation(s)	Information		Discussion		Approval	X
	<p>Student Voice are asked to approve:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The creation of a Care Experienced Students group and a Student Carers representation group within the By-Laws, within section 3.6.8. 2. For each group to create a Student Voice Officer, with similar remits to the other Student Voice Officer Remits (outlined in the By-Laws section 3.5). 3. For the Care Experience Students' Officer and Student Carers Students' Officer to become full members of Student Voice and Equality and Diversity Committee. 					
Who have you consulted when developing the paper?	GCU Executive Committee					
Staff/Student Protocol	Yes	X	No		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.						