

Motion to support an opt-out system for lecture capture

Owner- Jamie Rodney

In effect: Immediately

Review Date 18/02/20

Notes

1. The University of St Andrews currently has an opt-in system for lecture capture.
2. Lecture capture aims to provide equality of learning to disabled students, students who have English as a second language, students with caring responsibilities, etc who may find it difficult to keep up with lectures due to absences or not being able to keep up with notes.
3. There have been ongoing discussions both among staff, University management and students about whether to make lecture capture opt-out rather than opt-in
4. The Students Representative Council voted in favour of a policy of Lecture Capture in 2017 (see appendix 1)
5. A recent survey among students (appendix 2) saw 88.8% of students say they supported an opt-out rather than opt-in system for lecture capture.
6. Opt-out policies exist among the Universities of Edinburgh, Manchester, Leicester, and Exeter.

Believes

1. Lecture Capture is beneficial to students, especially those with disabilities or long-term health conditions.
2. An opt-out rather than opt-in system would allow more students to benefit from lecture capture, while also respecting the independence of teaching staff.
3. The most constructive way for the Students' Association to contribute to the debate over lecture capture would be to illustrate the extent of student support for an opt-out system.

Resolves

1. To share the survey on social media channels
2. To formally endorse the idea of an opt-out system for lecture capture.
3. To revisit this motion at the next joint councils should the results of the survey show students do not support an opt-out system.

Proposed:

Tom Harley
Anna Ruth Cockerham

Seconded:

Jamie Rodney- Association President
Amy Bretherton- Students Association Director of Education
Flora Smith- Students Association Director of Wellbeing
Polina Sevastyanova- SRC Member for First Years
Emily Muller- SRC Member for Students With Disabilities
Emma Walsh- SRC Member for Student Health

Appendix A

R.17-1: A motion to support lecture capture technology at the University of St Andrews

This SRC notes: 1. Lecture Capture technology is a digital tool that allows for the recording and revisitation of lecture materials. 2. The university has been trialling the Panopto software, which records voice and the slides being displayed on the screen. It has additional capabilities but these have been outwith the scope of the pilot. 3. Three schools took part in the semester one pilot; Computer Science, Modern Languages and Management. 4. The Director of Representation has been involved throughout the pilot as a member of the project board. 5. Face-to-face delivery remains the primary mode of delivery, though ways in which learning can be enhanced by lecture capture include: opportunity for review, clarification and consolidation; better support for students with disabilities and those for whom English is a second language; and enabling a wide range of delivery modes, including flipped classrooms. 6. A recent review of lecture capture provision across the UK HE sector (through the Heads of eLearningForum) indicates that, of the 94 institutions responding, 77 are already using lecture capture solutions. 7. The University does not currently have a lecture capture system that is available across campus. The School of Medicine currently operates the Echo360 system but this is available only within the Medical Building itself. 8. Currently, the University has a Recording Policy which allows students with registered disabilities and medical conditions to use personal devices to record lectures. This policy would be revisited if lecture capture is successfully rolled out. 9. Lecture Capture has not had a discernible impact upon attendance at either HE institutions currently using the software or during our pilot. 10. After discussion at Education Sub-Committee, the Students' Association's School Presidents have agreed in principle with the introduction of lecture capture.

This SRC believes: 1. Lecture capture is the way forward for revision purposes. 2. Lecture capture benefits students with disabilities, language needs or legitimate reasons for missing classes. 3. Lecture capture improves accessibility and allows for the development of distance learning classes. 4. The University of St Andrews should adopt lecture capture as a matter of expediency.

This SRC resolves: 1. To mandate the Director of Representation/Director of Education to speak in favour of lecture capture at Learning and Teaching Committee. 2. To mandate the SRC Faculty Presidents, SRC Postgraduate Academic Convenor and Association President to speak in favour of lecture capture at Academic Council. 3. To recommend to the University of St Andrews that the student body is in favour of lecture capture technology.

Proposed:

Jack Carr - Director of Representation

Seconded:

Louise McCaul - Faculty President of Science/Medicine Sally Allmark - Faculty President of Arts and Divinity Euan Grant - Postgraduate Academic Convenor

Appendix A. Draft Policy of the Students' Association on Institutional Lecture Capture at the University of St Andrews.

The Students' Representative Council of the University of St Andrews Students' Association resolves to support the proposed introduction of a lecture capture system. Lecture capture technology is a digital tool that allows for the recording and revisitation of lecture materials. In this academic year, the university has

been trialling software developed by Panopto. This software records audio alongside the slides being displayed on the screen. It has additional capabilities for recording video but these have been outwith the scope of the pilot. We note that our Director of Representation has been engaged in representing students on the pilot board and our School Presidents have been consulted also. We also note that students for several years have requested such technology be implemented.

We believe as a Students' Representative Council that increased use of technology, including lecture capture, is the strategic direction being undertaken by the wider higher education sector in order to enhance learning. We would be saddened and disappointed to see our university fall behind others in the sector in its use of technology to enhance learning and teaching.

While considering our feelings on the topic, we have reached the following conclusions:

17. We particularly appreciate that the technology benefits students with disabilities, language needs or legitimate reasons for missing the occasional class. 18. We consider the university policy on Student Absence robust enough to ensure continued attendance. We believe, and indeed note, the considerable body of evidence that students who are engaged enough to attend lectures are unlikely to change their behaviour as a result of this technology. 19. We believe that students should be able to access their taught materials for the duration of their degree programme to enable the revisitation of study materials at any point before graduation, as they are currently able to with online Moodle and MMS resources. 20. We do not believe that students will censor their academic ideas or discussions as a consequence of being recorded, indeed we recognise that the only people who can access such recordings are people who would have potentially heard the material regardless. 21. We believe that opt-out clauses are a sufficient protection for students who may have reason to not be recorded.

We commend the academic schools which have participated in this pilot and hope that more shall join them. We urge all members of Academic Council to support the implementation of this policy and encourage active engagement with the technology within their academic schools.

Appendix B

Text of the Survey

We are running a campaign to push the university to implement an opt-out lecture capture policy and we would like to know your experiences of lecture capture.

We will use information collected in this survey to produce general information on what the opinions of the student body towards lecture capture are but we will not use direct quotes from our answers without your explicit permission.

* Required

Most of my lecturers use lecture capture *

Choose

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

I benefit from lecturers' use of lecture capture currently *

Choose

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

My lecturers do not use lecture capture

Please expand further on your experience of the current use of lecture capture (optional)

Your answer

I would benefit if more of my lectures where captured *

Choose

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

If more of my lectures were captured I would attend less of them *

Choose

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

I would find studying easier if more lectures were captured *

Choose

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Please expand further on how this would change your academic experience (optional)

Your answer

I think use of lecture capture should be opt-out rather than opt-in *

Choose

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree Nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

Please expand further on why you think this (optional)

Your answer

Are you a disabled student, a student with care commitments, commitments to employment, or is English not your first language, and would you be happy to tell us more about your experiences and how lecture capture might affect them? *

Yes

No

Do you have any other comments you wish to make?

Your answer

Are you comfortable with us using direct quotes from your above answers as part of the campaign?

Yes

No