

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.