



Papers for SRC Meeting **Tuesday 2nd of February** **6pm - MS Teams**

Contents of Papers:

1. Reports from Councilors
2. R21-01 Motion to promote trade union membership and direct students in employment to support

SRC REPORTS
February 2nd 2021

ASSOCIATION OFFICER REPORTS

Association Alumni Officer – Emily Gilson

What have I done since my last report?

Since my last report I met with my committee. We worked on the alumni spotlights to get interest in SaintConnect. During that meeting we reached out to 18 alumni. We've already heard back from and created three spotlights and completed the first post. I also have done some work for Careers week by putting together the first of a couple pages highlighting the benefits of CareerConnect and SaintConnect

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

By next report, I hope to have the paperwork for risk assessment for Fiona Hill's speaking event. I would also like to continue work on the alumni Instagram page to spotlight alumni and promote student and alumni participation in SaintConnect

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

If you have a subcommittee, there is the above mentioned Alumni Tracking system. It basically gives permissions from the grad when they fill out the form (can have people fill it out when they graduate) to alumni relations to relay communications from the future society or subcommittee. It would be great to have as many people participate as possible so we can maintain a community with our alumni!

Link to alumni communications form:

https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/development/communications/societies/?fbclid=IwARoWE4MUXY1GvQnGEz7_UdynOATczoSzlXoPsUrQM6OnlVKDP4Aswy4PujE

Association Community Relations Officer – Anna Young

What have I done since my last report?

This week I have reached out to my committee to discuss any ideas and campaigns for the coming weeks. We are hoping that Fresher's Fayre on Sunday will be a fantastic opportunity to gain outreach for the next academic year.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

The current planning for Community Action Day has addressed my intention of the Community Relations Sub-Committee to facilitate an inclusive and positive platform of engagement between Town and Gown.

What will I have done by my next report?

I will have attended February's Community Council Meeting, I am also in contact with Students for Global Health and will be helping them to publicise their GCRF projects in St Andrews.

Association Environment Officer – Lea Weinman

What have I done since my last report?

- University COP26 meeting
- UK University Network COP26 first meeting with students from around the UK
- EAUC Carbon Offsetting Briefing
- Meeting regarding car idling campaign
- Organising and coordinating collaboration and event details for the “Writing Climate Justice into Law event on the 8th of February with Rector’s Committee, Amnesty and Law Soc.
- Securing a really exciting speaker – stay tuned!

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

- Working on laying foundations for a really exciting COP26 in November that will engage lots of students and staff in St Andrews.
- Working on environmental campaigns that matter to both students and community and that take a collaborative approach.
- Organise and plan for exciting speaker events.

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

- Engage with interested students at the Refreshers Fayre and get them involved in environmental activities and campaigns in St Andrews.
- Finalise details for the “Writing Climate Justice into Law” event and publish and promoting it on Facebook.
- Coordinate details for our collaborative speaker events.

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

- Speaker event: “Writing Climate Justice into Law” on Monday the 8th of February at 3pm
- We have a semester plan with weekly themes through S2 so follow our Facebook page and Instagram for some exciting online events and speakers!

Association LGBT+ Officer – Georgina Beeby

What have I done since my last report? – organised queerfest drag walk plans, worked on website ideas, checked in with committee members and discussed plans for the semester, refreshers organised

What progress has been made on my manifesto? – working to make saints lgbt more accessible to wider audience

What do I hope to achieve by next report? – talk to student services for check in; catch up w relevant ppl who I missed contact with over break. Further event organisation for semester; and merch plans.

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about? – nein

Association Lifelong and Flexible Learning Officer – Jenny Menday

No Report Submitted.

Association BAME Officer – Ananya Jain

No Report Submitted.

SRC REPORTS

SRC Accommodation Officer – Sophie Bickerton

What have I done since my last report?

Continued to help anyone with questions regarding accommodation during this time from ending leases in private accommodation and how the refunds will work in university halls. I have received a high influx of emails due to the uncertainty of the current circumstances.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

I am continuing to assist those that need advice and support with private accommodation for next year as well as those struggling at the moment. I am also continuing to support the Senior Students as they push for reform with Hall Committees.

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

I hope to continue to help those with any questions as well as highlight the importance of searching for private accommodation next year, particularly for first years.

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

N/A

SRC Member for First Year – Maitreyi Tusharika

No Report Submitted.

SRC Member for Gender Equality – Elise Lenzi

No Report Submitted.

SRC Disability Officer – Anna-Ruth Cockerham

What have I done since my last report?

Since my last report, I ran an open forum with disabled students to discuss the results of the survey that we ran last semester. Since then I have been working on a report of the results and highlighting our five priority actions for the next semester. The actions we have highlighted are:

- Improving incoming students' knowledge of the disability support available when they first come to university;
- Improving the experiences of students accessing support from Student Services and their department;
- Improving accessibility of the university estate;
- Ensuring that improvements to the accessibility of learning remain post-COVID;
- Tackling disability-based stigma and discrimination, and encouraging a broader understanding of disability;

Many of these issues are things I have already been exploring and working on, and we have been working to find solutions to some of these key issues like potentially working with Admissions and examining the support available for commuting students.

I have also been working with members of the DSN Committee to plan events and projects for the next semester, including finalising our plans for a campaign on mental health conditions and beginning planning a campaign on invisible disabilities.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

My manifesto points quite broadly cover the needed actions highlighted in the survey and the results of the survey will hopefully help me target these issues with the University. Alongside that, progress has been made on starting a working group on physical access with Emma (DoWell) and I have been working on webpages for disability support in each academic school with Chloe (SciMedFP) and Disabilities Forum.

See more of my progress here: tiny.cc/arcmanifestotracker

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

By next report I hope to have reached out to more of the necessary university staff and departments to target the priorities from the survey results. I also hope to have begun running a successful campaign on mental health as a disability and finished training for the DSN Committee and Disabilities Forum.

Any events or opportunities that you would like members to know about?

The DSN is hoping to run events online weekly this semester, with a broad range of educational events and social events. Find out more at tiny.cc/StAndrewsDSN

SRC Member for Student Health – Gabby Kryiakou

What have I done since my last report?

- Planning for Wellbeing Subcommittee
- Met with some exec. members on the subcommittee to talk about events and projects

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

- Meet with Emma (DoWell) and Izzy (Health and Fitness Rep) to discuss Healthy Body Healthy Minds
- Meet with Library to discuss diversifying 'Shelf Help'
- Develop a semester overview for the Subcommittee, incl. Instagram content
- Email estates again to request access to more building layouts
- Look at content and layout of new 'Support' page on Union website

SRC Member for Widening Access and Participation – Tooba Shah

Since my last report I have been working on participating in discussion in focus groups that are centered around scholarships and bursaries, accommodation and recently, a sports participation barrier group. I really want to gain a deeper understanding into the working of these areas within the university and how we can make this more accessible for widening access students.

This involves collecting and gathering data from research into one so we can attribute which areas need focus on and in what way. I am particularly focusing on the awareness of scholarships and bursaries for freshers but also the need for revision in current areas of financial help available to students.

By next report, I want to discuss areas of collaboration with the Rectors Committee and Sports Participation barrier group further, so we can start working towards ideas for collaboration events in the coming weeks.

Arts/Divinity Faculty President – Joe Horsnell

What have I done since my last report?

- Met with Dr Lisa Jones to discuss the William & Mary Transition Report, which she agreed to help us implement
- Coordinated the Study Buddy Scheme 2020, which matched students in similar year groups and Schools together. This was designed to combat exam stress, isolation and loneliness during one of the most difficult times of the pandemic for a lot of students. Emma (DoWell), Amy, (DoEd), Octavia (Peer Support Coordinator), Gabby (Member for Student Health), Jasmine (PG Development Officer) and Katy were instrumental to its success. We had 70 pairings in the end!
- Attended School Presidents Forum
- Met with the BAME Education Officer and EDI Faculty Leads to discuss progress on EDI goals and the BAME Action Plan

- Stood in for the Director of Education at the Film Studies School Review and joined the review team in providing recommendations and commendations to the School
- Attended a meeting of SA Trustees
- Met with Craig Phillips (Assistant Director of the Careers Centre) to discuss outcomes from Semester 1 and areas the Careers Centre could have improved upon. We also discussed ways in which School Presidents could be further supported
- Met with the School President for English to discuss issues around deadlines in his School
- Chaired the final Education Committee meeting of the Semester
- Chaired the final School Presidents Advisory Group (Careers) (SPAG) alongside the Assistant Director of the Careers Centre
- Met with the Director of Student Development and Director of Education to discuss the Employability Strategy and Careers Week
- Attended a Finance Subcommittee meeting of the SA Board
- Attended the final Board meeting of 2020
- Coordinated and chaired an extraordinary meeting of Education Committee to discuss plans for Semester 2 (including which mitigation measures the School Presidents would like to push for – e.g. s-coding)
- Have begun coordinating another iteration of the Study Buddy Scheme to help students to cope with the current situation (many students are scattered across the world)
- Prepared motions to write SWAG and SPAG into the laws and re-instate the Employability Officer (spent time writing up the position description)

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

- I have continued to ensure School Presidents are well-supported and we have made a small amount of progress on EDI goals
- A lot of my time is spent on Careers-oriented goals and progress was made here

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

- A second, successful iteration of the Study Buddy Scheme
- Firmer plans for the Careers Centre-Students Association collaboration
- Further progress on EDI goals – including sorting out the BAME Reporting Tool on the Union website

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

- It would be great if councillors could promote the Study Buddy scheme when sign-ups go live! I'll post a link in the Facebook group this week

Science/Medicine Faculty President – Chloe Fielding

What have I done since my last report?

- EduCom
- Email admin
- Meetings to organise Diver-STEM with the rest of the committee
- Meetings to improve SWAG and Disabilities Rep Forum next semester

- Got added to a working group about the launch of wellbeing officers
- EDI meetings with the EDI Staff Leads
- Psychology EDI meeting
- Met with Amy and Joe
- LTC Away Day
- Sorted social media with Iona
- Joint Councils

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

- Kept working on Diver-STEM, which promotes inclusivity
- Continued work on disabilities and wellbeing matters
- Doing my best to support School Presidents and Conveners during a difficult year

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

- Updated SWAG and Disabilities Rep Forum to ensure they run more smoothly
- Attended LTC away day

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?
 Diver-STEM: Celebrating POC in Science – an event designed to promote inclusivity and diversity within science. All the Science School Presidents and lots of Class Reps are involved in organising it.

SRC Postgraduate Academic Convener – Abigail Whitefield

With the help of Amy (DoEd), I have held a PGT Forum which allowed all of the PGT reps to bring their concerns about the future semester to us. These thoughts have been compiled and sent to the Provost, who will be reporting back to us soon. We are also holding a PGR Forum, and hope to also provide this to Monique and here her responses. I have attended the Learning and Teaching Committee Away Day, which looked at the future of online examinations. I have also attended Academic Monitoring Group.

SRC Postgraduate Development Convener – Jasmine Rodriguez

- *What have I done since my last report?*

Since my last report, I have had a meeting with the DoEd, as well as attended a few other meetings that come along with my role. These meetings have identified gaps and there are plans in place to begin to figure out what we can do and what is already being done to try to fill these gaps for PGs specifically, as well as opportunities for collaboration and/or incorporation of these existing systems. I have also announced that I will be a Publicity Officer for NL this past week, so that has been occupying my immediate time, but I am finding ways to try to incorporate the work for both roles together.

- *What progress has been made on my manifesto?*

I am meeting with people to figure out what kind of professional support projects are currently being offered to PGT students. The schools of Psych/Neuro and the Medicine have also announced that they are working on a study for a PGT wellbeing and I plan on reaching out the Psych DoT about what they expect and possibly the results. I am going to reach out the Careers Centre to learn about what projects they are currently working on following up on a previous meeting this semester to give me an idea of what is possible to help or accomplish in my remaining term.

- *What do I hope to achieve by next report?*

By the next report, I hope to have an idea of what kind of support postgraduates are looking for and making sure to offer appropriate resources for them given the difficult times and to have a plan for the next PG RLS.

- *Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?*

N/A

Principal Ambassador – Kate MacLachlan

What have I done since my last report?

I have continued to work with the Vice Principals and Admissions so ensure the smooth running of our various projects that are on running. These include Widening Access Projects and Visitor Experience work. Additionally, I have been working on organisation of our January recruitment as well as the application process for the next Principal Team.

What progress has been made on my manifesto?

- N/A

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

- N/A

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

Applications to join the Ambassador scheme are open until midday on the 31st of January. More information, the application form and link to our information evening can be found on our website. (<https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/students/ambassadors/apply/>)

Rector's Assessor – Stella Maris

What have I done since my last report?

- On Friday last week Dr. Leyla Hussein and I attended the first Court meeting of her Rector term.

- This past week following court I have had productive conversations concerning action, accountability, and access at our university with individual court members.
- My team has begun running spotlight weeks via our Instagram account. Last week we ran a successful and engaging Activism and Outreach spotlight. This week we are running an Accommodation spotlight.
- Our committee's social media growth has been a source of pride. This week our Instagram account passed more than 1,000 followers.

What progress has been made on my manifesto.

- Our manifesto is split into three sections: Access, Action and Accountability.
- Under Access our racial equality coordinators have produced a racial equality questionnaire which is currently being circulated through the student body. We are also working with the mental health task force and the equally safe initiative to create a mental health class.
- Under Accountability we have launched a sexual based gender violence (SBGV) working group chaired by Dr. Leyla Hussein. This group has had its first meeting and will be meeting again soon. Progress reports will be issued as the working group continues to meet. Our communications team have been researching the Universities Covid-19 communication and will be condensing Court minutes.
- Under Action we have begun a conversation surrounding activism through our Make It Make Sense podcast. Our first podcast was recently released and featured a conversation between Dr. Leyla Hussein and myself.

What do I hope to achieve by next report?

- Update the current structure through continuing ongoing dialogue and progress concerning our constitution, partnership agreement and handover document.
- Release our annual report.
- Further current progress involving the Rector Committee's website.
- Continue releasing our spotlight weeks. Next week's spotlight week will focus on SBGV.

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about?

- Our Crenshaw team is co-hosting an event with St Andrews Voluntary Service – “The Perspective of an Animal through the Lens of a Camera: A Conversation with Keegan Kuhn” on 3 February at 3pm UTC on Facebook.
- We have been engaging in a widening access dialogue with Dr. Fiona Hill which presents many opportunities to tackle and address these themes. Dr. Hill will also feature as a guest in our next Make It Make Sense podcast.
- The opportunity to engage staff in our Make It Make Sense podcast and spotlight weeks came up during a meeting with a Senate Assessor this week.

SRC Member Without Portfolio – Annie Smith

What have I done since my last report? Since my last report, I have been working on the minutes for the last Joint Councils meeting, which will be ready by this SRC meeting, and I have posted the graphic recap for our Joint Councils meeting.

What progress has been made on my manifesto? n/a, continuing progress made throughout the year

What do I hope to achieve by next report? By my next report, I hope to have met with Dan, Morgan, and Toni regarding the role of Members Without Portfolio in the laws, created the graphic for this SRC meeting, completed the minutes for the SRC meeting, and work with Morgan and Toni to publish our new infographic series.

Any events, opportunities that you would like other members to know about? As always, let Toni, Morgan, or me know if you have anything you'd like to promote on the Councils social media!

R21-01 Motion to promote trade union membership and direct students in employment to support

Owner: Dan Marshall

In Effect From: Immediately

Review Date: N/A

It is noted that:

1. At the last census in 2011, 32% of students in Scotland said they worked part time alongside their studies [1]
2. Many students in St Andrews have experienced bullying and harassment at work and other examples of poor working conditions. This was highlighted by an investigation by the Saint in 2017. [2]
3. In 2019 members of trade unions earned on average 10.3 percent more than the average worker in the United Kingdom. [3]
4. In the United Kingdom, every worker has the right to join a trade union [4]
5. The Students' Association is not a trade union and so does not represent its members in employment matters.
6. At present, the Students' Association provides no formal advice, support or signposting for students in their capacity as workers.

It is believed that:

1. The Students' Associations should actively direct students to information about their rights at work and to organisations which can help them.
2. That every worker should have the opportunity to join a union and should be encouraged to do so.
3. The pandemic has made it more important than ever for students to understand the rights they have as workers.

It is resolved that:

1. The Association President be mandated to create a section of yourunion.net/support to signpost students in work to help and advice for organisations including Citizens Advice Scotland and the Scottish Trades Union Congress.
2. The Association will work with the Careers Centre to ensure that students have access to information about their rights at work when looking for part time employment as is done at the University of York. [5]
3. The Association will encourage students in work to consider trade union membership.

Proposer

Dan Marshall – Association President

Seconders(s)

Sophie Tyler – Athletic Union President

Gavin Sandford – Director of Development and Activities

Tom Groves – Director of Events and Services

References

- [1] <https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/labour-market>
- [2] <http://www.thesaint.scot/2017/04/hospitality-culture/>
- [3] <https://www.statista.com/statistics/287278/uk-trade-union-wage-premium/#:~:text=Trade%20union%20wage%20premium%20in%20the%20UK%201995%2D2019&text=In%202019%20members%20of%20trade,worker%20in%20the%20United%20Kingdom.>
- [4] <https://www.gov.uk/join-trade-union/trade-union-membership-your-employment-rights>
- [5] <https://www.york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/look-for-work/employment-rights/>