



Vice President Education: Bobi Archer

For meeting of 22/03/2018

Summary

It's the last Student Council of the academic year, next year's Sabbatical Officers have been elected and so there's no better time for reflection. My report is going to be a little different this time, as I'd like to illustrate the projects I've worked on throughout my tenure and inform you of what progress has been made and where we're currently at. Of course, it's not over yet and I'll be fully dedicated to making further change over the next few months but I'd like to take this opportunity to emphasize that it's been an absolute pleasure to work with so many representatives and students.

My main three priorities upon being elected:

Joint-degree Programme Review

Summary	There are 14% of students on joint-degree programmes within the University and they consistently express their dissatisfaction with the structures and support that it's in place for them. This year I made it one of my key three priorities to ensure that these programmes are reviewed and that adequate support is put in place to ensure that students can attain their full potential.
Achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've produced a report with Sabine Rolle, the Dean of CAHSS within my tenure, outlining all of the issues for students on joint-degree programmes. This list consists of <i>(by no means an exhaustive list but through student reports, survey data and consulting staff this is the beginning of our mapping out process)</i>: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clashes in compulsory courses 2. Clashes in coursework/take home exams/dissertation deadlines 3. Lack of communication between the two partnering Schools 4. Limitations in curriculum design, depending on the options for elective courses



5. Difficulties in gaining academic guidance/advice
6. Inconsistent communications of deadline extensions and special circumstances
7. Limited student support in the latter half of the programme title
8. Can feel to be a greater workload and more effort
9. The difficulties of back to back lectures, with the pressures of travelling between campus'
10. Lack of community and sense of belonging

- Lobbied the Senate Learning and Teaching Committee to develop a **working group which will review joint-degree programmes**. The University has committed to reducing the number of joint-degree programmes it offers and to strengthen the structures and support that's in place. Students will also be given the opportunity to "create their own degree" and select their graduating title depending on the credits they've taken, so no opportunities will be removed for students.
- **Inclusion within Teaching Programme Reviews (TPR's)**. They now have a component that looks specifically at joint-degree programmes, as appose to the individual subject areas in isolation
- **Remodeled the Student Representation system** so that students are represented at programme level, which is inclusive of students on joint-degree programmes

Reducing the Pressures of Semester 1

Summary

The Semester 1 revision period is much shorter than Semester 2, with students having between 3-7 days to prepare depending on how the academic year falls. A student may be required to prepare for 60 credits worth of examination in this time, equating to a quarter of their degree classification and thus students can face high pressure. Therefore, I produced a paper to outline some ways in which the University can reduce some of this pressure from students



Achieved

- Senate Learning and Teaching Committee endorsed my paper regarding the following implementations;
 1. Week 11 to be free of new examinable material
 2. Week 6 or Mental Health Wellbeing week to be free of regular (weekly) assignments
 3. All courses to provide a previous exam or template if adjustments have been made
- College Learning and Teaching Committee's also endorsed these policies and will be discussing with Schools how this can be implemented in practice for future academic years

Remodeling Student Representation

Summary

As a full-time student, I was both a Class and School Representative and often found it difficult to engage and communicate with fellow reps and students, thus as Vice President Education it was my top priority to improve communications. However, when I came into the role I realized how inconsistent and adhoc the class representation system was in each School so my priority changed to defining the structures in place to allow for coherent communications.

Programme-level representation was chosen as the preferred method as it allowed students to enter a dialogue that contributed to their whole student experience and not just an individual course or tutorial. This provides representatives with the most knowledge and power to enact change within their local constituencies.

This also improves joint-degree programme representation as there will now be allocated spaces for these students and the right committee's for them to discuss their student experience. Additionally, the overall system will take us from ~ 2,800 reps to ~ 1,200 which will allow the Students' Association to develop the support it offers students within these roles.



<p>Achieved</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 schools worked with the Programme Representation model this year, with two new schools adopting for the 2017/18 academic year (Business and Veterinary Studies) • 7 schools are currently mapping and strategizing how this will look within their schools, with plans to implement the system for 2018/19 • Schools must provide a report of their system to the Senior University Management to outline their preference for future • Schools will be requested to assign a member of staff to act as the key liaison and support the representatives • Developed communications to recruit representatives through application or elections, as appose to nominating yourself in class • Lobbied the University to invest £10,000 for an online platform to investigate LEARN as a platform for discussion and feedback – a hub for representatives and students to engage • The Students' Association will be investing into in-person training which will be tailored to each school. This will be delivered to approx. 900 students for 2018/19 with a phased plan to train all Programme Reps in-person by 2020/21 • The Students' Association will be developing its online training and ensuring it's more interactive and accessible
<p>To finish</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a paper to the final Senate Learning Teaching Committee on the 23rd of May to ask for the implementation of a University-wide Student Representative system by Programme, to remove the adhoc appointment of reps • The Students' Association to work with representatives to develop a toolkit to help collate and distribute feedback, as well as communicate with their students

Other



Lecture Recording Policy

The University invested into Echo360, a new lecture capture platform which enables staff to record lectures across the University for 2017/18. The University did not however have a policy in place to decide how the equipment was utilized and was left for individual lecturers to decide, which has led to adhoc recordings with some schools deciding not to use it altogether. In my tenure I've **lobbied the University to implement an opt-out policy**, as appose to opt-in which will mean that lecture recordings will be "the norm" and recorded university-wide unless there are extreme circumstances discussed with the Head of School to opt-out. This was open for consultation in February and a decision will be made by Senate Learning Teaching on the 23rd of May for the 2018/19 academic year.

Diversifying the Curriculum

I've worked with the Black Minority Ethnic Officers, Diva to produce a report which outlines Edinburgh's black attainment gap and the initiatives of LiberatEd. From this, we have been lobbying the University to expand on this initiative and to put university-wide policy in place to diversify the curriculum; by developing readings lists, creating new courses and ensuring that students feel represented and included. In light of this lobbying the **University has tasked a working group to diversify the curriculum** to look at its pedagogy and practices, with the intention to implement university-wide policy and school specific initiatives when it reports to Senate in **January 2019**.

Kings Buildings and Easter Bush

Having studied on a satellite campus, a large part of my manifesto was to provide more outreach and inclusion for students outwit the George Square area. Together with the Sabbatical Officers we organized "**Sabbs on Tour**" where I led outreach and feedback sessions at Easter Bush, as well as attending their School Councils and Events (I was a particular fan of the white coat inauguration ceremony).

To ensure that good communications are kept between the next Vice President Education and the College of Science and Engineering School Reps I've **developed the CSE School Forum**. This meeting is held between myself, the reps and the Deans of the College to ensure that there is a platform to discuss issues and ideas together. I've also set up a **working group within the Students' Association** and hosted focus groups to look at the organizations strategy in regards to the provision and outreach for students on the Kings Buildings campus moving forward. On the back of this, the organization has arranged for the Alpacas to re-visit!

I've been involved in the Kings Buildings Nucleus, which is a major £30million development to the center of the campus. They're quite far into the planning rounds and had not asked for student input and therefore I've **lobbied the University for a Student Consultation**, to ensure



that student's perspectives are incorporated into the plans and that it meets their demands and needs.

Postgraduate Working Hours Cap

Students working as tutors and demonstrators could only work at the University for 6 hours fixed cap per week. Following the work set up from my predecessor Patrick Garrett, I worked with the University **to increase this to a 9 hour average cap with immediate effect** to the 2017/18 cohort. Although this was an increase, there were still mixed communications regarding the existence of the cap and with the support of Fabio, the PGR Representative I lobbied the University to create a page on their website which outlined all of the information and included a set of FAQ's. In addition, I'm continuing to lobby the University to notify all potential applications of this cap and to include it within their offer letters.

Student Partnership Agreement

Together with the University we developed the **first ever Student Partnership Agreement**. This is an agreed set of principles and priorities between the two organizations, of which the University invested £7,500 for student-staff collaborated projects. The Agreement funded 11 projects and received over 20 applications, which will be reviewed to see how they can have further benefit to students in the future years.

The themes for this year were; Academic Support, Student Voice and Mental Health and Wellbeing, which will be reviewed by the Vice President Education on an annual basis.

Industrial Action

A large proportion of my role in Semester 2 was dedicated to the support of the UCU industrial action, as well as lobbying the University for student's rights and to ensure that this did not have a negative impact on their academic standing. So what has this looked like behind the scenes?

1. Meeting with the UCU on a weekly basis to keep updated of the industrial action and negotiations. This was also an opportunity for us to discuss student requests with the strikers, e.g. not picketing the main library
2. Ensuring that communications to students are relevant and efficient by releasing a news article and providing a set of FAQ's
3. Updating the Edinburgh Students in Solidarity Facebook page on a daily basis (social media is actually v demanding) to keep students in the loop and motivated
4. Arranged film screenings and room bookings for both students and striking staff to come together in solidarity and host teach-ins



5. Meeting with the University on a weekly basis to ensure that students' academic standing is not affected and that they are able to graduate with a degree that reflects their intellect and dedication

Funding for Student Nurses

The Scotland Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) does not currently collect data that they provide to Universities so that they can means-assess students and award them bursaries. As a result, this has led to a large discrepancy over the funding for Scottish nurses in comparison to English, even though they receive the same NHS bursary. In addition, Scottish students (from an SIMD20, widening participation background) studying any other degree programme are eligible for a £3,000 bursary, creating further discrepancies for this cohort. I've been lobbying the **University to allocate funding**, which they are trying to collect from Alumni. In addition, I've also passed a motion to present at NUS Scotland Conference for them to **lobby SAAS to collect this data** and **increase the discretionary fund** for student nurses.

VP Welfare: Esther Dominy

For meeting of 22/03/2018

Summary

This report summarises my progress on the main projects I've been working on. To provide a bit of introduction, my three main objectives are around improving mental health support, preventing sexual violence and harassment and continuing work to improve students' day to day experiences, including facilities for parents and carers.

Special Circumstances

Summary	Student Council has previously passed policy around improving the University's Special Circumstances and Extensions policies to make them more accessible – including to student parents and carers –
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	<p>and improving this system is one of my priorities for the year. The University is currently looking at how to improve the <i>process</i> of applying for Special Circumstances and Extensions to make it easier to use, fairer and more consistent and I am also working to make changes to academic <i>policies</i> for Special Circumstances and Extensions, amending them to cover a broader range of circumstances with more appropriate evidence requirements.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed proposals and attended Curriculum and Student Progression Committee (CSPC) alongside VP Education to support various changes to Special Circumstances and Extensions policies. The following approved changes will be implemented for the 2018/19 academic year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Addition of non-routine parental and caring responsibilities to Extensions and Special Circs policies ○ Addition of exceptional/unanticipated employment commitments to the Extensions policy ○ Addition of 'experience of sexual assault or harassment' to Special Circs and Extensions policies and change to evidence requirements to give greater weight to statements given by staff members who have received disclosures. This will be followed by a further amendment to add other forms of harassment and bullying. • I have continued to input into a project that will make changes to the process for applying for Special Circumstances and Extensions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Changes that are likely to go ahead include: more regular Special Circumstances committees to allow quicker responses to applications, the ability to make an application and have it accepted pending evidence, more standardised and reliable processes for approving applications and removing the supporting evidence requirement for all Extensions up to 7 days. This should be implemented for 2018/19.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been a delay in this work and some changes have been made to the original proposal (although these should not affect the details above). Myself, the VP Education and President have continued to meet with the project team to ensure students' concerns are addressed. ○ I am also looking for ways to feed into the group developing the guidance and policy that will ultimately accompany a new process, as this will have an impact on how it works in practice. ● I have been comparing the information given to students in different Schools to understand the range of ways Special Circumstances and Extensions (as well as support services like the Student Counselling Service and Student Disability Service) are communicated. Ideally, I would like to see a 'template' of appropriate advice/guidance that is included in all documents on this type and am looking at how to do this.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continue to be involved in the process of developing a new system for Special Circs and Extensions to make sure student feedback has been taken on board by the time changes are introduced. ● Continuing to lobby for comprehensive training and guidance to accompany the new process for Special Circs and Extensions, to ensure that decisions made will be fair. ● Working with the University to explore options for providing template wording around Special Circs/Extensions.

Sexual violence and harassment policy

<p>Summary</p>	<p>I have been working to improve the University's response to sexual violence and harassment. This includes looking at the policies and</p>
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	<p>processes in place for students who choose to make a disclosure or report to the University.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University has now agreed (although not yet formally approved) the creation of a task force on sexual violence and harassment to take responsibility for this work – #EUSAWINS! This group will include student representation, the Advice Place, academics with relevant expertise and other University staff. It will oversee many of the areas of work I describe below and ultimately ensure implementation of changes. I intend to push for subgroups of this group to focus on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reporting procedures (University complaints, investigations under the Code of Student Conduct and HR investigations) ○ Communications (No One Asks For It campaign) ○ Training (for staff on receiving disclosures and for students on range of topics) ○ Student support (creation of 'liaison officer' staff role to act as a designated point of contact for students; also addressing issues like counselling support and how academic policies like Special Circumstances and Authorised Interruptions of Study work for students). • I have worked with University and Advice Place staff to map out University policies for reporting and where problems occur. Now that the mapping process has concluded, I have started to plan meetings with external stakeholders (including Rape Crisis organisations) and students with experience of reporting to the University to gather more feedback. • I have compiled and am continuing to update a paper to outline our key concerns and priorities for what should change. I have also met with the University Secretary to communicate issues specifically with HR investigations (in cases where the accused person is a staff member) and how this process should be improved for students.



Representation & Democracy

- Myself and our Women's Officer, Kathryn Pearson, have organised a consultation event for students who have direct experience of University reporting procedures to provide feedback. I have also met with students and University representatives to allow students to communicate their concerns directly.
- Met with Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) alongside Advice Place staff to discuss how we can best work together and how they can input into the work around reporting procedures and support for students.
- I have been lobbying for changes to the University's complaints form – this is currently the only way to report sexual violence or harassment to the University and is not suitable. Myself and the Advice Place have communicated changes to be made and I have followed this up with relevant Uni staff.
- I have promoted opportunities to feed into research being carried out by the National Union of Students (NUS) Women's Campaign into staff-student sexual misconduct. I have also been pushing for the introduction of a staff-student relationships policy that outlines acceptable conduct and boundaries – I am awaiting a draft version of this policy to provide feedback.
- The University has bought online training for staff on how to respond to disclosures. The Students' Association has access to this and it has been circulated to our staff in relevant positions.
- I am reviewing the Students' Association's Zero Tolerance approach – this outlines the operational procedure for if a student makes a complaint of sexual harassment in our venues. We are currently looking at developing our communications around this so that students are aware of what to do if they experience harassment, including making more information available on our website, providing a blurb



	<p>for all events we run and introducing more visible advertising in venues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I helped secure money from Student Council to fund a supply of the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre (ERCC) survivors' booklet. There have been delays printing the booklets, but once we have them they will be circulated to the Advice Place, Student Counselling Service, and other places for students to access them. We will also promote the online version of the booklet through our channels. A bonus is that the booklets have been cheaper to produce than expected, so we'll receive 200!
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning meetings with a wider group of stakeholders (including external organisations, students with experience of reporting to the University) to seek feedback on current reporting mechanisms and University support. • Developing communications around the Student's Association's Zero Tolerance approach in venues. • Working with Kathryn to review the results of the consultation with students on reporting procedures and use this to inform the changes we push for. • Continuing to push for changes to be made throughout the University based on the issues identified during the mapping process (including staff training, reporting mechanisms, etc.)

No One Asks For It and bystander training

<p>Summary</p>	<p>In 2016 No One Asks For It was launched as a joint campaign between the Students' Association, the University and the Sports Union. We're now looking to develop and launch a new campaign for September 2018, with a focus on survivor support alongside prevention and education and with more opportunities for student</p>
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	<p>involvement. We are also looking at expanding the training available at the University on bystander intervention.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a student consultation meeting run by Kathryn Pearson, our Women's Officer, and Sexpression to gather feedback on No One Asks For It and examples of other campaigns. This feedback was written up and will be used to develop the next campaign. • Met with representatives of other Edinburgh universities to discuss region-wide cooperation with campaigns. This is unlikely to develop into a single campaign, but was a useful opportunity to share experiences and learn from others. • Kathryn and I presented our proposal for a new campaign to the University. It was agreed we would move forward with developing a new University-wide campaign for September 2018. This will be designed in-house by the Students' Association with student consultation on the design, message, etc. • Training will now be delivered for around 600 student leaders in bystander intervention this September and I have fed in our priorities for what form this training should take (both for this September as well as larger-scale training in the future). It has been confirmed we will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the content of training to ensure it is comprehensive and appropriate.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Kathryn to use the feedback gathered from students as a basis for developing a new campaign over the coming months. • Now that we have agreed the overall approach for developing a new campaign, we can begin to plan the specifics, including developing a brief and recruiting students to consult on the campaign.



- Working with providers of the bystander training due to be delivered in September to provide input on what we think the training should cover and how it should be delivered.

Thematic Review of Support for Mature Students and Student Parents and Carers

Summary	<p>Last year, the University committed to conducting a Thematic Review into support for mature students and student parents and carers. This will take place over semester 2 and will involve consultation with students to identify recommendations for improvements.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the first meeting of the Thematic Review, where I raised issues affecting mature students and student parents and carers, including library access, childcare, data collection, information/guidance, academic policies and changing facilities among other issues. • Successfully lobbied for the Students' Association reps for Parents, Carers and Mature Students to be invited to sit on the panel conducting the review. The next meeting of the review will take place with our reps in March (postponed from late February) • Worked to secure further opportunities for students to feed in through focus groups and interviews – these will take place in late March.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing to shape the outcomes of the review alongside our reps for Parents, Carers and Mature Students by feeding in students' concerns. • Promoting focus groups and interviews.



Other

- In March I will be attending NUS UK and NUS Scotland conferences as part of our delegation and in April I will be attending NUS UK Women's Conference. This involves electing the leadership of NUS UK, NUS Scotland and the NUS UK Women's Campaign for the coming year as well as voting on policy.
- Myself and the other Sabbatical Officers attended a University Strategy Away Day with the new Principal and University senior management to provide a student perspective and influence the priorities of the new Principal.
- Elections are now over and your Sabbatical Officers for 2018/19 have now been elected! I even got to do some announcing on stage, the best part of the job so far.
- Myself and the other Sabbatical Officers have been continuing to show our support for the UCU strike, through morning coffee runs, film screenings and more.
- Myself, the President and VP Community, our Disabled Students' Officer Chloë Marvin and Judith Drake have been involved in discussions around the University's plans for a new Wellbeing Centre at 7 Bristo Square. We pushed for more space for the Student Counselling Service and Student Disability Service and I'm pleased to say the plan has been approved with additional funding for several more rooms!
- I am involved in preliminary conversations around Mental Health Peer Support and am working with Students' Association and University staff to develop ideas for a pilot scheme to run later this year.
- I am beginning to plan for Mental Health and Wellbeing Week 2018 and have started conversations with the University around support and funding.
- I met with Lindsay Moffat, our Student Parents Rep, and the VP Activities and Services to explore options for a child-friendly space in Teviot and identify an appropriate space.

VP Community: Oliver Glick



Summary

Strikes and snow, elections and myself taking a week off have meant I have less to update you on than previous months! But I have kept some big projects ticking over.

As it's the last council I thought I'd highlight some great wins I and student groups/other sabs together got this year

Housing

Summary	affordable housing, more co-ops, better tenant's rights
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Particular postgrad halls possibility was shown to myself and paddy. We researched alternate financial models that work, and said we would only support it with a higher proportion of affordable beds, compared to what the uni was planning. • I met with the planning convener of Edinburgh council, and had a constructive chat about changing high level rules on private housing, and possible changes • Patrick and I attended a huge estates committee meeting (4 hours!) and put strong student needs in the conversation. As well as this, there were positive developments in regards to potential co op • The advice place used some campaign budget to reprint our tenants' rights and advice booklets, to give to more folks!
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep fighting the good fight

Achievements this year (Sabs/students/student groups)



- Secured a long term residential strategy, and ensured co ops, improved affordable bed provision, and social integration were included
- Successfully lobbied to freeze accommodation prices in halls for a year, for the affordable bed category, and ensured price rise on other beds was as minimal as possible
- Ensured several new accommodation building plans contained an increased amount of affordable beds than initially planned
- Secured the funding for a food waste position-Georgia is currently working on our redistribution pilot, hopefully launching soon!
- We secured agreement from the uni on jointly introducing a reverse 'tax' on reusable coffee cups, and the provision to give away keep cups to students next year (thanks to Buchanan institute)
- We helped pass approval for plans for a widespread water fountain project across the campuses, with a view to greatly reducing bottled water reliance in future
- Full divestment!! (thanks to People and Planet)
- We have got to a good stage of a development which will hopefully become a co-op.
- We secured an extra 9 rooms for student counselling in a new health and wellbeing center
- Ensured that the new 'naming rights' board, which allocates large buildings name changes, like the Gordon Aikmen lecture theatre, has student representation on it
- Ensured the norm is for large building projects to always have student representation on them
- Helped change the 4 year transport strategy to include accessibility provision, and an onus on cycling
- Had input into upcoming expanded bike hire schemes for students
- Our paper calling for private halls regulation has been circulated to mp's, councilors, and is going to NUS Scotland

Vice President Activities & Services: Kai O'Doherty

For meeting of 22/03/2018

Summary

This is the final Student Council report for the year (but I'll be back next year, as VP Welfare, yay!), so I wanted to make this report more of a year summary - of what's been achieved or



still to happen in terms of Activities, Services, and other projects! The past month I've focused work on UCU support, maintain current projects, and being on Annual Leave for the election period!

Key Projects & Progress: Activities

<p>Summary</p>	<p>Activities covers the service the Students' Association offers to societies, volunteering groups, social enterprise, and other personal development opportunities for our members. I've focused on widening participation in extra-curricular activities, and encourage inter-society collaboration.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports & Activities Participation Grant: we administered two rounds of grants to lower income students to subsidize costs of engagement in extra-curriculars. I successfully lobbied to increase this grants to £25k for the next 3 years! • Skill Swap Platform: this online platform for societies to exchange skills and knowledge has been launched, and will be evaluated • International Student Centre: I've worked with the ISC all year to support them in their bids with the University, to find temporary space, and strategic future • Activities Executive: as the Chair, I've worked with the Activities Reps to pursue their own objectives, and support their other duties • How To Guides: these guides, intended to be by and for societies, are still in the works! • Sports Union Collaboration: our relationship with the Sports Union has only strengthened this year, as I meet with them regularly, seeing our activities as intertwined
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up interviews and evaluation of Participation Grant recipients this year; this data is crucial for further funding from the University



- I'll conduct evaluations of the Skill Swap platform, and the new Activities Executive structure

Key Projects & Progress: Services

<p>Summary</p>	<p>'Services' covers the commercial services run by the Students' Association, including bars, catering, retail, events, conferences, estates/buildings and more. My service-related objectives have largely centred on greater inclusivity, and making our services more sustainable.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender-neutral toilets: a successful campaign, aided by a 'toilet squad' of students, to identify convertible single-stall toilets across campus, and include the provision of gender-neutral toilets in future builds by the University • CRUSH: helped organize the first monthly LGBT+ club night in Teviot! This will continue next year, with better structured organization. • Food Waste: VP Community and I lobbied for funds to hire a Food Waste Intern, who has evaluated our food waste, and is piloting a foodshare programme in our catering services, with a view to expanding this to University catering. • Student Centre planning: as the primary student representative on the Student Centre project, I attend regular architectural meetings to ensure the design/direction of the building has consultation (see: Nov consultation) and remains in line with our values. • Meat-Free Mondays: re-introduced MFM in Teviot, with help from VegSoc. There's still more to be done in expanding our veg options, but this is a start! • Reusable Coffee Cups: worked with the VP Community to secure £20k to pilot a project next year, where a 'latte levy' with reverse pricing to incentivize reusable cup use, paired with free Keep Cup giveaways.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divinity, Rainy Hall catering: at the request of the UG School Rep, secured a card payment machine at this venue, costing £5k due to wiring and technical needs (it's an old building!)
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of Plastics: following a Student Council motion to reduce the use of disposable plastics in our outlets, I'll be meeting with interested parties to discuss the most efficient strategies on this. • Smoke-Free Policy: research into best practice has concluded, and a draft policy will be written, following a Student Council motion. The University will be reviewing their policy next year, and we will feed into that. • Parents' Space: VP Welfare and myself are working with the Parents' Rep to finalize the most suitable space and needed equipment for a child-friendly space in Teviot.

Key Projects & Progress: Everything Else!

Summary	<p>There are a whole bunch of other projects that don't squarely fall into Activities or Services necessarily, but that I've worked hard on this year too!</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UCU Student Solidarity: following the Student Council motion's vibrant support of the motion to support the UCU strike, I've coordinated significant student action, including the Festival of Solidarity, film screenings, social/physical media, coffee to picketers, etc. This has taken up much of my time following Feb's Council. • Anti-Expansion work: the whole Sabbatical Team has continued to echo students' opposition to the University's expansion within our remits, and overall. We have seen this discourse taken up by students and University staff alike, and consider this is win! Let's keep the pressure on!



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Representatives' Discount: early in the year, VP Education and I secured IDs for representatives to ensure some form of reward for their time, through giving 10% discount at our outlets. We hope this continues!• Postgraduate Engagement: a deep-rooted issue indeed, the Students' Association doesn't support or connect with PG students as much as it should. I've spearheaded strategic departmental discussions on addressing this, and research & strategic planning will be implemented over the next year.• Transgender Awareness Training: along with the Welfare & Equality Officer (staff member), I delivered Trans Awareness Trainings to key Students' Association staff and the University's Disability Service.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UCU Solidarity work will continue through exam periods, in conjunction with the VP Education's work to mitigate academic impact on students as much as possible.• Postgraduate Engagement work is long-term, and will also include further input into the Old Kirk Redevelopment, planned as a hub for PG students.

Other

- I represented the Students' Association at the NUS Scotland Conference last week.

President: Patrick Kilduff

For meeting of 22/03/2018

Summary



Representation & Democracy

We have three whole months left being your team for '17-'18 but, as it's the last council of the year, I wanted to run through both recent and upcoming activity as well a highlight reel at the end of things done this year. I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the elections from candidates to voters for making the magic we saw; a massive congratulations to those who won and to everyone who didn't I hope you don't give up trying to make change happen.

I learned from Grandma that in life we must endeavor to try leave things a little better than we find them. I hope at the very least I can say that earnestly come the end of my term.

This job and working with the incredible team, astounding staff and amazing students has been a singular privilege so the only thing I really need to say is:

Thank you.

More Affordable Travel Plans

Summary

This has been a project I have been keen to develop alongside the VP Community. The University currently has a very limited and patchwork approach to travel to all campuses with the Medic's bus and KB Shuttle being flagship trouble areas. In the earlier half of the year it felt very much like we were wading through treacle trying to get anywhere with actualizing proper help for students across campuses with our travel needs; especially in relation to buses.

This is a critical problem faced by many students on non-Central based campuses and students who cannot afford to live centrally; I also see this in the long-run as a problem that will be faced by a growing number of students as spatial pressures in central area force more and more students to live outwith the city centre.

The new Principal has stated he is keen to see develop this area of University policy and as such I see this as an opportune time to reignite conversations around this. We have begun to finalise the development of several options to try tackle this and hope to achieve positive change in this regard in the coming months.



<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development stage of a multitude of policy options to present the University with. • We have made the decision to make sure the event has as good an attendance as possible, so students do not have to cross picket lines to attend whilst maintaining our drive to ensure our voice is key to shaping the Principal's vision as early as possible.
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to raise this as a matter of priority with the Uni transport department and wider departments of the University.

Residential Strategy

<p>Summary</p>	<p>Working alongside the VP Community we have been working for most of the year with the University Estates department to develop a long-term Residential Strategy. In doing so we have lobbied hard for significantly more affordable accommodation (<i>More 'Band 1' and 'Band 2' beds</i>) and more variety in types of accommodation (Co-ops).</p> <p>As part of this we have secured a guarantee that there will no longer be disparity between undergraduate and postgraduate definitions of affordability and price-banding as had previously been the case.</p> <p>We have lobbied hard to ensure affordability is at the heart of the strategy going forward and will see the first draft of this strategy in the near future.</p>
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	Naturally we intend to try integrating considerations regarding transport alongside this strategy.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spent the last year with the VP Community in many meetings discussing and feeding in to the formation of the strategy and lobbying for considerable increases in availability of affordable accommodation.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree finalization of the document with the University Estates people and pass it through Estates Committee to become University policy.

Principals Town Hall + Awards Season

Summary	<p>A reminder because we want as many people as possible to make it to the event! We're hosting a Town Hall meeting with the new Principal, at McEwan Hall on the 28th of March 6-8PM, to ensure students can both influence Peter as he forms his strategic priorities for the University and hold the Uni leadership to account. Questions will be able to be asked both on the night and via an online submission form shortly available from the Students' Association if you would prefer.</p> <p>We are currently not anticipating this being affected by the strikes but will maintain ensure immediate communication if this becomes a reality.</p> <p>It's also Students' Association awards season for Activities, Impact and Teaching. Keep an eye out for the events and celebrate the winners!</p>
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Now That's What I Call PRESIDENT 2017(-18):

- Successfully lobbied for the renaming of the George Square Lecture Theatre after the inspiring Gordon Aikman
- Worked with the VP Community to secure a price freeze for all Band 1 (Cheapest 1,000) beds of University accommodation and a real term price cut for every bed across the Uni.
- Worked with the VP Activities to achieve an increase in the Participation Grant from £10k to £25k and secure stable funding for the next three years.
- Achieved an enhanced investment in the 7 Bristo Square development (*Preliminarily referred to as the new Health and Wellbeing Centre*) of £800k creating nine more spaces for counselling rooms.
- Finally got second terms for Sabbatical Officers through University Court and Senate.
- £1 Trial bus fare from King's Buildings past 6PM
- Managed to work with the Sab team to develop a Sab outreach program for the first time.
- Free Birthday Big Cheese for people's birthdays!
- Alongside the VP Community revised the KB Bus timetable to a more appropriately fit with student timetables, got an extra morning bus.
- Gave evidence to Parliament about free speech at University and appeared on the Victoria Derbyshire programme on the same topic.
- Agreed a change in Estates protocols to ensure a student on every project board.
- On the panel selecting the new head of the College of Medicine of Veterinary Medicine.
- Study space tracking firmly on the agenda for the University in the next two years.