

Accountability

Report from Jess Husbands, Vice President (Societies & Activities)

Disability Review

Summary	In April students called for the University to conduct a review into the support for disabled students on campus. This review has now concluded the interview-style sessions with a range of university students and staff, and the findings and recommendations were presented at University Senate on Weds 1 st Feb. Will be presented to Principal mid-April.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Held a Student Consultation session so students could give feedback on the recommendations made by the review. Unfortunately, not many students attended, so where possible we are circulating the Accessibility Policy to the students who attended the original interviews to gather feedback.• The recommendations were well received by students at the sessions, and Leah and I are broadly happy with them and think they are more positive and ambitious than we expected. Key points:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Learning adjustments from the SDS will have 'mandatory' status, not 'recommended'.○ Relaunch of Accessible and Inclusive Learning Policy (AILP)○ IT work already underway to improve the capabilities of IT system – essentially so it won't all be done via email, and more complex things re data.○ Disabled GO, the leaders in this sector, have been commissioned to survey the estate re accessibility, and will create an app which will be ready by Welcome Week. Will be able to tell the user e.g. the location of the nearest accessible toilet. This survey work will also help the University to plan accessibility redevelopments in a more strategic manner.○ An annual audit will take place in schools to assess what proportion of adjustments are being implemented.• Final draft of the report is being written. Will be finished and presented to the Principal mid-April.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings with heads of Colleges to discuss the report and get input.• Collect student feedback re Accessibility Policy.• Push for student input on AILP relaunch – if you're interested, get in touch!

Mental Health

Summary	<p>A growing % of students are experiencing mental ill health. This is putting severe strain on the University Counselling Services, which is acting in a capacity it was never intended for as a result of the increased incidence and NHS cuts. Trying to look at preventative as well as reactive measures.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health and Wellbeing Week 2017 is over; students' mental health issues obviously are not.• The Student Mental Health Strategy has been finished, and was presented both to Senate and to interested students a few weeks ago.• The strategy is broadly positive but very vague. It sets out UoE's aims and visions when it comes to student mental health and wellbeing.
Next steps :	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of SMHS: An implementation working group has been set up. I hope to get students as involved as possible on the implementation side of the strategy, including holding focus groups in schools to get students' views on how they see the strategy being implemented. If you're interested in this, let me know!• On another note, various people have been in contact, sporadically over the last year, about the whether or not the Student Association has any kind of group support for those with mental health issues. We don't, due to not having anyone trained to facilitate this. Group Counselling was something on my manifesto but hasn't worked in the past when attempted by SCS. If this is something you would be interested in attending, <u>please</u> get in contact! If we already have a large group of interested students, I'd like to go back to SCS and ask for their support again.

Sexual Health etc.

Summary	<p>Many other universities and unions put on some kind of sexual health, or 'SHAG' week (sexual health and guidance) Members of Sexpression and Equal Opps Convenor Corne have expressed interest in organizing a similar event here at Edinburgh.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A member of Advice Place staff and I have been helping them explore why this may be needed, and how it could work.• The expenditure motion the group put forward to last council was successful.• Raquel and Erin from Sexpression are leading on this, and frankly I'm overwhelmed by their organization and professionalism. They are planning events such as a Sexual Health Fair, a BDSM discussion/workshop, a debate around PrEP, c:card outreach, and many

	other things. Get excited, tell your friends, and get in contact with me or them if you'd like to get involved.
Next steps :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue being of any help I can to the core team on this project!

Mooncups!

Summary	Last year's sabbatical team were successful in providing sanitary protection and pregnancy test free of charge through the Advice Place. Ever since starting the role, I've wanted to investigate promotion of more sustainable forms of sanitary protection
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contacted Mooncup and bought in bulk. The Mooncups are now available in Students' Association shops for £11.45, compared to £19.99 in Boots etc. (RRP). Absolute bargain! Held a Mooncup information event (well, stall) during sustain.ED, which was really successful and I chatted to loads of people who were all very positive about wanting to get on the mooncup train. I've since been contacted by various students (after my incessant social media posts on the topic) for answers and tips. So don't be shy if you're intrigued and have queries. We've ordered more into our shops 😊
Next steps :	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save the environment one vagina at a time.

Society Support

Summary	I'm VPSA, I love societies, I wanna support societies be great.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have spent the last 3 weeks messaging people about being an Activities Rep. If you're reading this and it's before 2nd March, go and nominate yourself! It's a fantastic role that is a step up from being a society committee member, involves representation of many other societies and the chance to improve society support.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More info here: https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/representation/elections/elections2017/positions/ • My blogpost about why the roles are in fact super exciting here: https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/blogs/blog/Jess%20Husbands/2017/02/13/Get-excited-about-the-new-Activities-Rep-roles/
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get people to vote! • Assess future of the WP fund for societies. Is there a better way to achieve the same objective? • Chatting to Robin Drummond (Sports Union President) and the Institute for Academic Development (IAD) about how we can ensure that PhD students know they are welcome in (or rather, actively encouraged to join) societies and sports clubs.

Liberation Group Support

Summary	Equality falls under my remit, and as such I'm the main sabbatical touchpoint for the liberation reps (BME, Disability and Mental Wellbeing, Women's, LGBT+).
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Done a little bit of promotion for LGBT+ history month (but honestly it's mostly been Kai, big hand for Kai). • There were 56 people at the Asexuality event! In a room that only holds 20! Definitely a fire hazard, but more importantly really exciting that so many people had such an interesting and engaged discussion on asexuality. (I did not organize this event but it's such a big deal that I wanted to share it. Big up to Moyo and Julia for organizing it). • Have been reaching out to people I think may be interested in running for the liberation officer positions.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get people to vote for liberation positions.

Student Group Support

Summary	Provide support for the convenors of the Student Parents and Carers Group, the International Student Group, the Part Time and Mature Student Group, and the Postgraduate Student Group, in order that they can achieve their manifesto points
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After a semester and a half of nagging, the Advancing Gender Equality Working Group are creating a subgroup to assess childcare needs for

	<p>staff and students with young children, and establish if more/different provision is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Student Parents coffee mornings
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Vivienne and Patrick to implement aforementioned policy.

Other:

- **Sexual Harassment:**
 - Liaising with the University to ensure that more information is available to students who have experienced sexual assault prior to reporting, so that they know what the process will be.
 - Also assessing whether other methods of best practice at other Universities can be put in place here.
 - Good Night Out Training for Students' Association frontline (hourly) staff is being reviewed and relaunched (hopefully with online content for ease of dissemination).
- **ESCA:**
 - Working in my capacity as an ESCA trustee to help develop additional HR policy they need.

You can always contact me with any queries on eusavpsa@ed.ac.uk or via facebook, where my name is Jess Husband Vpsa.

Report from Patrick Garratt, Vice President (Academic Affairs)

LiberatEd

Summary	Supporting students who are leading the LiberatEd campaign, and facilitating meetings with other students and School staff
Current stages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since last Student Council, workshops have occurred in the School of Literature, Language and Culture, and the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Science. • Facilitating meetings with students who ran workshops Heads of Undergraduate Teaching, Heads of Department, and in some cases, Heads of School. • Aims of LiberatEd now available on website. • 'Women in STEM' society on inclusive teaching and women in academia and industry relating to STEM subjects, took place earlier this week.

Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting those students who will be speaking to course organisers within LLC, to influence the recalibrations of pre-Honours curricula, currently taking place as part of Teaching Programme Review • Departmental meetings with the School of HCA • Departmental meetings with the School of SPS • Hosting open meeting with students and staff about LiberatEd at the end of March. • Creating forums within CAHSS Schools so that students can run LiberatEd projects in the future.
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Postgrad representation

Summary	Consulting postgraduate taught and research students, and establishment of new postgraduate roles
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion being presented to Council tonight is the outcome of several months of discussion with postgraduate representatives, students and University staff. • Staff across Schools are now working on approach to requiring PGR committees, akin to staff-student liaison committees but specifically for postgraduates, following a successful proposal we submitted at one of the Senate Committees.

BME Attainment Gap

Summary	Supporting the BME Liberation Group with report to highlight BME students' experience at the University of Edinburgh, particularly with regards to teaching practice and curriculum content
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BME Liberation Group Convener, Esme, has been running focus groups with students from across different disciplines, and across undergraduate and postgraduate level. • The Students' Association is concurrently gathering data around both UK-domiciled, and non-UK domiciled BME students. The University holds this data but it hasn't ever been analysed in depth.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We will support the BME Liberation Group as students steer the direction and recommendations of report. - When the report is ready, we will present the report to the University committees relating to Learning & Teaching, as well as the University committees relating to Equality & Diversity.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using the motion which passed at the last Student Council, 'Making Universities More Inclusive of People of Colour', to lobby University staff members about need for curriculum reform, and to consider ways in which teaching practice across the University is addressed.
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Supporting year abroad students

Summary	Establishing better support systems for year abroad students
Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking to secure expansion of funding into Big White Wall. Currently there are only a small number of licenses, but we are looking to push for an expansion of funding to provide Big White Wall access to every student across the University. This would therefore greatly help those students who are abroad who are struggling to gain access to their host institution's facilities, or the University of Edinburgh's facilities. • Year abroad coordinator is being transformed, so that from next academic year onwards, personal tutors will be primarily responsible for pastoral issues, and a new role will be introduced within each School for overseeing how these personal tutors respond to students.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to work with the International Office and the Students' Association Global team to look at how information about partnered institutions is shared with students. - Continue to take part in working group that looks, among broad themes, at how year abroad students are supported by their personal tutors.

Special Circumstances

Summary	Looking to get Special Circumstances Boards within some Schools to meet more regularly, to reduce the uncertainty that students have until the end of their semesters
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation for Senate Committee happening in mid-March. I will provide an update at the final Student Council.

What else has been going on?

- Election outreach – lots of it. The sabbatical officers have been running sessions on the elections across all campuses, and we will be very busy with this over the next few weeks.

- Helping establish 'Reclaim Initiative' on campus, and I recently spoke at one of their panel events. This is a group formed of academics and students who explore issues surrounding the commodification of Higher Education. Hoping that this will be developing more over the next few months.
- Took part in staff recruitment process for the new Representation & Democracy manager.
- Taking part in Estates Committee discussions to ensure that King's students don't face rip-off prices from new University-run catering outlets as part of the new buildings being drawn up.
- Busy few weeks on Senate Committees (academic committees), focusing largely on procedures around PhD supervisions. I'm aiming to do some work on this specific topic over the next few months so that the next set of sabbatical officers have an idea about what to push for with regards to PhD students' academic and pastoral needs.
- Working with staff at Main Library to ensure space is available for students, particularly as the opening of the Lower Ground Floor has seen far more students using the library facilities.

Report from Jenna Kelly, Vice President (Services)

Water Review Project

Summary	Review of existing drinking water facilities in central and Kings campuses
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intern recruited • Review process underway • Survey sent out to students and staff
Next steps	<p>To review drinking water policy of 2009</p> <p>To establish existing facilities</p> <p>To analyse survey results</p> <p>To facilitate intern's working within university and students association spaces</p>

Housing Outreach

Summary	Outreach with the Advice Place in the first 3 weeks of February
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Fair 13th February • #morethanmarchmont video series promoted • Move-in and move-out checklists compiled

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Summit 25th February in Stirling
Next steps	<p>Checklists displayed around buildings on campus</p> <p>Event at parliament with Andy Wightman to be planned</p>

Santander Bike Hire Scheme Competition

Summary	Competition between 25 UK universities, to win funding from Santander for a city bike scheme
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placed in the 25 universities entered into the competition • A team created with a university transport staff, sustainability staff, 2 engineering students and a sabbatical officer • First workshop attended in Newcastle
Next steps	<p>Attend the next workshop with the VPC-elect to begin handover of project</p> <p>Write up business case in time for May shortlisting deadline</p> <p>Recruit a larger team of students for the second phase of the competition; progression dependent</p>

ESSA project

Summary	The European Students Sustainability Auditing project
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will welcome ~16 students from Portugal and Lithuania to our campus, building links and celebrating cultural diversity • The students will be fully trained in sustainability auditing in March • The students will then be auditing the University of Edinburgh with regards to its sustainability
Next steps	Meet with the students, facilitating their work on campus and integrating their findings into tangible actions going forward

Report from Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson, EUSA President

Summary

What follows are a few of what I consider the most important developments out of all that have been achieved during the past month. Please feel free to get in touch with me if you would like to hear more developments/achievements and/or hear how the ones described here fit into the wider strategy.

Transportation Update

Summary	An update on various strands of work on transportation
Achievements	<p>A workshop was held with members of the Med School Council about how to address their travel needs. Bus 41 subsidy secured for March 6 – April 7th between Kings and Central Area!</p> <p>Although the significantly cheaper 9 Month Bus Pass addresses the needs of thousands of students traveling on Lothian Buses every day, it does not go far enough. Workshops and consultations are being held to address the Kings Shuttle Bus, the now-defunct NHS shuttle bus and multiple other transport issues.</p>
Next steps:	Continue to work with estates and college registrars to address different needs that students have. Especially around postgrad and underprivileged student bursaries for travel in the Med and Vet School.

Development and Alumni/Mentoring Program

Summary	Various strands of work done around increasing the engagement of students with alumni
Achievements	<p>A plan is being designed to tap into the network of hundreds of thousands of alumni around the world. They could support students as they think about applying, as they look for and join jobs, as they transition to life after Uni in foreign cities etc.</p> <p>Furthermore, a mentoring application is being designed to facilitate mentoring relationships between students and alumni during their time at Edinburgh.</p>
Next steps :	Preliminary steps include linking cultural societies, the international office and the D&A department in order to begin fostering relationships. The mentoring program is holding consultations and steering group board meetings are ongoing. Launch date or timeline is still being decided.

Voter Registration

Summary	Working to ensure greater visibility of voter registration for students
Achievements	Following the motion at council I worked with Student Systems and agreed the following three elements for greater visibility/knowledge of voter registration through the Students' Associations' online portal: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. At registration at the outset of their university experience students will be prompted to register to vote2. There will be a visible link on MyEd to our voter registration page. Hopefully that will be in place by the upcoming council election3. In the all student newsletter around key elections there will be a link to our page. That includes the upcoming council election.
Next steps :	Follow up with University colleagues to ensure that these changes are delivered and reassess next year to assess the success of the various methods

Council Elections

Summary	We are beginning to plan our approach and desired outcomes (policy not people) for the upcoming council elections
Achievements	We have drafted a plan with the external campaign organisers and will be reaching out to hear from class reps/school reps about what their major issues or concerns are. We have engaged with NUS and an external organisation to begin to align our efforts around voter turn out and influencing manifestos.
Next Steps	Continue to plan the approach and bring in additional, relevant stakeholders. Eventually we will advertise the elections to students in order to drive participation. I will continue to update as this progresses.

Changes to the Digital Experience

Summary	A summary of the number of different items that will be changing in the next year/years as a result of Student Association input
Achievements	Timetabling on the phone is the latest of a number of upgrades in the student digital experience. Alongside online recorded lectures, the Student

	<p>Association App, an upcoming revamp of MyEd and a potential Talks at Edinburgh (working on this one currently) this represents a fundamental change in the way that students will interact with the University.</p> <p>We are also working with the surveys unit and people in student systems to capture opinions about how to better design MyEd for next year. More work on this to follow in the coming months and will be passed on to the sabbatical team next year.</p>
Next Steps	<p>The work on the digital experience is far from finished! It is well under way and we'll be working on tying up loose ends a few other pieces of work going forward. We'll also be working on ensuring a smooth transition on some of the longer term digital projects/committees/boards for the new sabbatical officers.</p>

Thank you to you all for coming to Student Council and making your voice heard! Please be in touch with any questions. My email is eusapres@eusa.ed.ac.uk, my facebook name is "Alec EUSA Pres" or you can call me at 01316509405.