

Accountability

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

Summary

Summary of 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 is now underway, focusing mainly on physical access, mainstreamed learning adjustments, learning profiles and interruption of studies. It is looking to be concluded by February 2017.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have sat on the review panel and continued to stress the need for student involvement.• Fed into summary of first session to ensure that it reflects the wishes and experiences of students and has concrete KPIs to properly measure the university's improvement in this area over the next few years.
Next steps:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to ensure that implementation is measured as well as recommendations being made

Mental Health

Summary	Last year's sabbatical team set up a £10,000 fund for mental health initiatives, and started Mental Health and Wellbeing Week. I want to continue this fantastic work.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have put together a working group to oversee the planning of Mental Health and Wellbeing Week.• Have reached out to societies to encourage them to put on dedicated mental health-related events for Mental Health and Wellbeing week 2017 (heads up societies please put on an event!)• Gone through feedback from School Rep form and reached out to individuals about mental health initiatives in their schools.
Next steps :	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue planning for Mental Health and Wellbeing Week, especially encouraging student involvement in the planning.

Sexual Harassment

Summary	<p>The No One Asks For It campaign was largely prepared by the outgoing sabb team. When we came in, we were really keen to ensure that the campaign had concrete changes in the background to change the situation around sexual harassment on campus.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed a list of 6 asks for the Uni about policy and procedure around sexual harassment reporting, and am reaching out to other universities and relevant groups doing best practice in this area for feedback on our asks and how to achieve them. Overwhelmingly, we're being told we're asking for the right thing.• Contacted Leith police about potential anti-sexual harassment work I heard someone down there was doing.
Next steps :	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visibility stunt to raise the profile of the campaign.• Continue asking uni for policy change

Kitchen Facilities in Study Spaces

Summary	<p>Installing kitchen facilities in the main library was something on my manifesto, and I'd like to just get as many students as possible able to make a cup of tea or heat up their lunch.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have continued liaising with main library. Looks optimistic, (if frustratingly slow).• Have compiled a list of buildings in which kitchen facilities are needed.
Next steps :	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reach out to staff in relevant buildings.• Contact staff members in small schools that already have easily accessible kitchen facilities for staff and enquire about possibility of opening these up to students on a pilot basis as staff/student collaborative spaces

Housing – Private Rental Sector

Summary	<p>Again, my manifesto talked about joining the national fight towards rent caps and working to impose minimum standards on letting agents. I'm really keen</p>
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	that any campaigning done around this be sustainable time-wise, as this is clearly not an issue that is going to be outright solved by the end of my sabbatical term: Hence the need for anything of this sort to be concretely student-led.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Put on event to plan housing campaign, with speaker from Shelter to advise on policy etc.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of campaign

Society Support

Summary	I'm VPSA, I love societies, I wanna support societies be great.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have piloted Featured Soc of the Week, looking to take that further. Approved *many* new societies with Societies' Council! As a trustee for ESCA, have helped in the development of a risk-management strategy, and going forward will be working on HR and training issues as well as general trustee duties. Have reached out to Festival of Creative Learning about society involvement with FCL (previously ILW). Advised many student groups on new initiatives and how best to take them forward, what support the Students' Association can offer, and where to seek other forms of support.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at implementing featured Society of the Month Continue to look at society involvement with FCL, encourage FCL contacts in all schools to reach out to societies and liaise with societies on what kind of interaction and support would be useful from the schools/FCL. Due to the phenomenal increase in numbers of new societies, look at the support we offer and how this should be tailored to different types of societies etc.

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">• Met up with Kai (LGBT+ Group Convenor) to chat about manifesto points and how to achieve them• As part of the changes to democracy regulations and structure involved as a consequence of the EUSA referendum last year, have been looking at the role description of liberation reps, and how they interact with the relevant sabb and staff member. A model is being developed of how should this work in the future.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue to support the reps, including with upcoming events such as Disability History Month.

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">• Got an email round all teaching offices about the Student Parents and Carers Group, which has so far been forwarded on to various schools, which has increased the membership of the group significantly.• Helped Vivienne to facilitate the first in (hopefully) a series of coffee mornings for student parents.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continue necessary lobbying for data and relevant policy change (e.g. library entry) around student parents

Report from Patrick Garratt, Vice President (Academic Affairs)

Student Partnership Agreement

Summary	Establishing a Student Partnership Agreement
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Current stages:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been drafting a Student Partnership Agreement with the University. Such agreements operate in universities across Scotland. This will serve as a reference point for all students and staff, which will affirm how students can work in partnership with the University. Crucially, there will be a section that will contain specific goals – agreed upon by the Students’ Association - that the University should be working towards, and which can be updated annually, as sabbatical officers change. This will allow all students to hold the University to account, and will ensure that there is a clear understanding between the Students’ Association and the University over, for examples, areas as broad as teaching practice and mental health and well-being. • After consultation with staff from across the University, a draft was presented to one of the Senate Committees and got approval.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will be gathering input from School Conveners, Liberation Groups and Section groups over the next month, and then send the document round to those class reps who want to get involved.

Teaching Awards

Summary	<p>We are about to officially release a report of the nominations for the 2014/15 Teaching Awards. This is immensely exciting. The whole report is not just an affirmation of good teaching, but more importantly demonstrates that students appreciate, for example, the breaking-down of staff-student barriers, support from postgrad and postdoc tutors, and student support officers. The results are not surprising, but it is because they come from students themselves that makes this report important.</p>
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been meeting with College staff about the findings, and have been planning how we will disseminate this report, and crucially, how to get students involved and excited about the report. • The report will be officially released on December 1st. I will be running sessions for Course Organisers with the Institute of Academic Development over the next month, to articulate to staff what students want in teaching. • We will sharing the results with other students’ associations and unions across the UK, and will be putting the case forward that students are able to define teaching quality themselves. This is very much a national conversation at the moment, as the Teaching Excellence Framework is being adopted by universities across the UK. • We are continuing to lobby the University to not engage with the Teaching Excellence Framework.

Postgrad and postdoc tutors

Summary	Working on the new Tutor and Demonstrator code, and establishing tutor and demonstrators liaison committees
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I have continued to work with postgrad and postdoc tutors to ensure that the new Code for Tutors and Demonstrators helps address some of the problems encountered particularly over the last twelve months. The revised Code will however not solve the issue of Schools failing to abide by University policy, so there will still be plenty more to do after it is ready.• Currently in the process of using frameworks for Tutor & Demonstrator (T&D) liaison committees that operate in the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, and helping facilitate similar committees across all Colleges. For example, the Postgraduate Vice-Convener recently wrote a comprehensive report of the issues that tutors and demonstrators face in the School of Geosciences, as there wasn't adequate scope for all T&Ds to come together. The Vice-Convener commendably organised these groups himself, and if he had not done this, there would have been little input from Geoscience tutors and demonstrators.
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Students' Association will help facilitate more of these group meetings over the next few months – ideally in three other Schools - and the intention is to then mainstream these committees into each School through University policy, so that by the start of the next academic year, tutors and demonstrators will have a specific space to share their views with academic staff.

Supporting year abroad students

Summary	Supporting year abroad students
Update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Still In the process of embedding the transition workshops for year abroad students - led by the Institute of Academic Development - into second year curricula across the Department of European Languages and Culture (DELIC)• Embedding discussions about mental health awareness – as is currently the case in Japanese 2/4 workshops – into the second year curricula run by DELIC. This should be ready by the middle of Semester 2

Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plenty more to do, and it seems that there are still big issues around staff failing to communicate with students. Will be working more directly with the School Convener in the School of LLC to ensure that personal tutors are responding to students whilst they are away on their year abroad.
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National Demo

Summary	National Demo
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinated the arrangements for students travelling down to London for the NUS UK and UCU National Demonstration, affirming the Students' Association solidarity with international students and staff, and protesting against the sweeping changes being made to Higher Education, and the cuts made to Further Education. We brought a coach down full of students from our campus, as well as from Edinburgh Napier, Heriot-Watt, Queen Margaret University and SRUC.

Conferences/National Outreach

Summary	Conferences/national outreach
Institution/location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attended NUS Scotland zones conference Attended Enhancement-Themes Working group in Abertay

What else has been going on?

- The Students' Association will be helping facilitate a joint workshop with students in LLC and HCA, and the BME Liberation Group, on the liberation of the curriculum over the next week, so that these discussions are more student-facing, and will lead to more workshops and events in Semester 2.
- Establishing the remits of the new sabbatical roles

- Working with College staff about what student representation at the College-level will look like in the future
- Sitting on the lecture recording procurement board, and will be more heavily involved from December onwards, when the Students' Association will be taking part in groups to discuss the policy regarding lecture recordings, e.g. explaining to staff about the opt-out arrangements.
- Last week was a busy week for Senate Committees, which are the meetings that discuss academic policies across the University.
- The second School Convener forum was last week, and was another great example of School Conveners sharing best practice.
- Still sitting on the group to ensure that there is no longer a need for student to physically hand work in in CAHSS. This has encountered some issues, but on the whole is being implemented smoothly
- I have been liaising with students and Student Support Officers around issues that seem to have occurred due to the new harmonized extension policies. We don't quite know the overall response to the changes – as many pieces of coursework are still due to be handed in - and we will be gathering more input from students between now and the end of the Semester.

Report from Jenna Kelly, Vice President (Services)

Summary

Summary of activities since last meeting 27/10/16

Halloumi Return

Summary	Featuring the halloumi burger on the Teviot menu
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halloumi burger is now featured on the Teviot menu
Next steps:	To run online and interactive polls monthly for students to vote on the next month's halloumi burger toppings, out of 3 options sent in by members of VegSoc

	(Head's up: December's options are salsa and guacamole, roasted red pepper and olive tapenade or sundried tomatoes and pesto. Vote from 16 th -18 th November online or interactively in the library bar coin-drop).
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#unapologeticallyme

Summary	Bodily autonomy campaign run in collaboration with Womens' Liberation Group
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 workshops with ~25 participants learning about photography and discussing issues relating to portrayal of bodies in the media, stereotyping and the photography industry • Photographical outcomes curated by the participants of themselves, collected and printed
Next steps :	Launch night on 25 th November and exhibition of the campaign from 25 th November until 10 th December. Both in Potterrow Dome.

Access to free drinking water on campus

Summary	To address the concern raised by students in the Social Responsibility and Sustainability (SRS) survey of a lack of free drinking water on campus
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding secured for a 6-8 week intern; who will perform a gap analysis and communications project • Close collaboration with the university's estates and SRS departments
Next steps :	Recruit the intern and follow through on their recommendations, signposting to existing facilities and installing new facilities where they are lacking.

Comment cards

Summary	Facilitating student input into Students Association commercial outlets
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Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of comment cards in all outlets for student feedback and suggestions • Digital version of the cards available for remote input
Next steps :	Collate feedback and assess best actions based on their content.

The Great KB Queue

Summary	Taking on student feedback regarding the length of and waiting time in the queue for the shop at King's Buildings; particularly relating to the sandwich deli.
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessed the quantifiable efficiency of creating a dual queueing system • Secured a second till for the shop
Next steps	Install the new till and monitor increase in customers served; also explore other options for further improvement.

Other

- Visited Leeds SU to tour their buildings and commercial outlets, taking away some best practices
- Planning for an alternative/not Big Cheese club night in Teviot Underground on Saturdays
- Judging for the Edinburgh Sustainability Jam 2016 with the Edinburgh University Sustainable Development Association
- Assessed the applications for the £4,000 SRS grant
- Work ongoing for the green festival, 16th-18th February 2017
- Partaking in conversations regarding central area building opening hours
- Secured 2 seats on the Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Options Review Group

Report from Alec Edgecliffe-Johnson, EUSA President

Summary

What follows are 4 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.

Participation Review

Summary	A detailed analysis of the barriers to involvement in Activities and Sport
Achievements	<p>The £10,000 Widening Participation grant pilot was extremely well-received and was extremely oversubscribed. Over 180 students submitted applications for more than £18,000.</p> <p>There is clearly a significant financial barrier to involvement in sports and activities.</p> <p>The Participation Review is a follow-on from this grant and is focused on more general barriers to involvement, in addition to purely financial ones. Areas that will be considered include protected characteristics, barriers to students taking leadership roles and differences in barriers between societies, volunteering groups and sports groups</p>
Next steps:	Expansion of the widening participation grant in the years to come as well as slight alterations in criteria. A broad review and report on the issues noted above to be undertaken over the next 5 months.

£5,000 Social Enterprise Grant

Summary	Secured funding from the University for a £5,000 grant to help students start/grow social enterprise initiatives
Achievements	We launched the grant for capital funding for sustainable businesses with a specified social mission. This is in reaction to increased activity throughout the university and the difficulty in acquiring funding. Equally, it is to marry up our efforts with efforts by the University and an increased focus on social enterprise, social business and community activity. Applications close on November 20 th .
Next steps :	We will be reviewing applications and holding a Dragon's Den-style pitching event on Nov 28 th . Following that I will be working with the Activities group to look at how they can support Social Enterprises in the future. This will be a large area of work for the Students' Association over next few years as it is an extremely up and coming area in Scotland and Edinburgh.

Mindfulness Program

Summary	Working with Chaplaincy in order to encourage more holistic approaches to mental health and wellbeing including mindfulness training
Achievements	In partnership with the chaplaincy we secured £5,000 to subsidise two 8-week mindfulness courses. The first is running now and the second will start in January.

	This is a strong step in combating mental health and shows a continued commitment in approaching the issue in a preventative and holistic perspective.
Next steps :	We will continue to feed into the University's mental health strategy develop deeper partnerships with the Chaplaincy with an eye to equip students in combatting mental health issues.

Broad consultation on student experience

Summary	Over the past 3 months I have conducted a broad consultation with a dozens of students, tutors, lecturers and professors on issues related to student experience and community at the University.
Achievements	The consultations have been classified into 8 themes with a number of individual initiatives in each. All suggested have been carefully weighed to ensure they are achievable and will not face too much push back from staff.
Next Steps	I will be presenting the findings and suggestions to University Court in early December and will be pursuing a number of initiatives over the course of the next 6 months in order to improve student experience in a support and in a wider context.

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@exseed.ed.ac.uk, my facebook name is "Alec EUSA Pres" or you can call me at 01316509405.