



Vice President Education: Diva Mukherji

Summary

Happy new year everyone! I hope you had a restful break! I've been away for quite a while, but am excited about continuing working on some great projects!

Diversifying the Curriculum

Summary	This looks at how we can use the curriculum as a space to represent academics from marginalized backgrounds; it goes beyond reading lists, and looks at creating a more diverse University.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New course about Contemporary Race Relations: met with interested members of staff about how the course would be organized and how students would contribute to its development. • Diversifying the Curriculum Task Group - have solidified its principles, and has been communicated to large parts of the University. Over the semester, more targeted communication and project suggestions will be sent out. • Filmed videos with the University VP People and Culture on the importance of diversifying the curriculum. Keep a look out for it! • Discussed possible projects and the importance of curriculum diversity at various University committees; staff members in the CAHSS were particularly interested in how Schools will be encouraged to prioritize this as an objective, which we're drafting ideas of. • GenderEd – This is an online resource hub of courses/research/academics within the discipline of gender and sexuality studies. We're working on ensuring continuing their funding, and potentially developing a similar hub for race-related research! • 'Decolonizing the curriculum' subject-specific guides - these guides would include testimonials from staff and students on the importance of having a diverse curriculum, suggestions on how to decolonize the area, and whatever else that may be relevant. I'm connecting interested staff and students, starting with schools in the College of Science and Engineering! If you're interested, let me know!!



Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan out the feasibility of the race and ethnicity research hub, and speak to interested stakeholders. • Organize groups of staff and students to develop the decolonizing guides in specific areas. • Create a decolonizing the curriculum resource list. • Decolonize the whole thing!!
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Inclusive Learning Environments

Summary	<p>This includes looking at ensuring all students have access to equal opportunities to succeed at university, and removing barriers to achievement. This ranges from looking at assessment methods to academic and pastoral support.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research - looking into how different forms of assessment fare better or worse for different groups. Members of the University are starting to have conversations about this, which is really exciting. • Researching innovative and effective ways to receive feedback – which methods are most useful for staff and students? If you have any positive experiences, let me know! • Reviewing common marking schemes - this is a long-term project which is deeply linked to assessment and feedback, so it'll be very comprehensive hopefully! • Lecture Recording - Developing workshops on the use and benefits of lecture recordings with staff and students; the workshops will be spaces where schools/disciplines can develop specific guidelines on how to use lecture recordings, and how to make lectures the most effective they can be! • Participated in workshops about supporting Widening Participation students at the University – this included looking at academic, pastoral and financial support. • Enhancement Themes project applications – I am reviewing these are project submissions which involve how staff/students use data to enhance



	<p>student experience. Some of them seem very cool, so will keep you updated on the successful applications!</p>
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research (locally and otherwise) – looking into best practice examples of assessment and feedback; the University is hosting a symposium on best practice of feedback methodology, which will be exciting! • Widening Participation - working with the Widening Participation team to think about how to provide more tailored support to widening participation students throughout their time at university. • Continue work on common marking schemes, benchmarking our university against other institutions in the UK and beyond.

Other

- You're all the best
- Nominations are now open! Thinking about running for a role but you're terrified or don't know how it works because there's so much information it's overwhelming? I GET IT!! If you're thinking about running for a role and want to talk through it with someone, contact me or the other Sabbs!! We're here for support and encouragement and myth-busting!! And for the record, VP Education is definitely the best role.

Vice President Community: Georgie Harris

Summary

Happy New Year (still early enough to say that) and happy Semester 2! I've had a restful break, and am really looking forward to working on elections and my other objectives.

Community Engagement

Summary	<p>My main thing I have been trying to push throughout the year has been Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) – and some progress has been made!</p>
Actions	<p>Automatic voter registration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistently making the case for the importance of AVR (especially in such uncertain political times) to various figures within the university.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secured commitment from the University Student Services department to work on the implementation of AVR for the next academic year, including it in their reform of student registration services (good news!!). • Helping run voter registration stalls in the George Square library to get more students registered to vote. <p>Local community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking to the Jo Cox Foundation about organising a Great Get Together for students and the public to attend. • People's Vote campaign: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continued to publicise details of the People's Vote campaign and its youth wing For Our Future's Sake as mandated by October's Student Council. ○ Attended stalls around campus and nearby areas of the city to campaign and speak to students and local residents. ○ Currently we don't know about the deal, People's Vote or General Election prospects - I will keep students updated based on whether or not a campaign will have to start urgently!
<p>Next Steps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the University to implement AVR for next academic year. • Planning drop-in events with local MPs so that students know their democratic rights as constituents and can ask about issues they may have, including non-UK students. • Continue keeping up to date with the People's Vote campaign and let students know how they can get involved.

Housing

<p>Summary</p>	<p>I've been working on initiatives to do with student housing to make it's as easy as possible for students to find somewhere safe and affordable to live.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing guidelines – Working with the Advice Place manager to review the advice we provide to the University when students have issues with halls, to ensure it is fairer for students and clearer what the University must provide. • Talking to my counterpart at Heriot-Watt about various rate your landlord type websites and their potential benefits.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last semester I spoke to a group of students about the potential to create a flatmate finder app for students to use. • Spoken to local councillors and politicians <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invited to speak at the Cross-Party Group for Housing in the Scottish Parliament on behalf of Edinburgh students – if anyone wants me to touch on a particular topic let me know! • Future of housing in Scotland – roundtable at the end of January representing students. • LGBT+ student accommodation – continuing research on the topic (get in touch if you have any thoughts!)
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting the convener of the City of Edinburgh Council's Housing and Economy Committee to discuss affordable student accommodation and issues around PBSA (purpose-built student accommodation). • Improving students' awareness of tenants' rights, and knowledge of the new type of flat leases coming into effect. • Continuing research into LGBT+ student accommodation amongst our students. • Improving guidelines that we provide to the University around refunds or compensation for student accommodation.

Sustainability

Summary	<p>Busy planning for this month's Sustain.Ed event – a day-long event held by the Students' Association with support from the University Social Responsibility & Sustainability department to shine a light on all things green.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustain.Ed event – planning for a reuse themed event on 23rd January <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be various events going on throughout the day run by societies and local community groups, both around George Square and King's Buildings. • Working with the University's Social Responsibility & Sustainability department allocating funding to student-led sustainability projects, which are so exciting! – Ask me for more info RE applying for funding!



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco-friendly period products – meeting student social enterprise Lilypads to see how we could further support the work they do, and learn more about both reusable and organic sanitary products in general. • Green Guide - Working on the Green Guide with VP Activities and Services, to provide information about more eco-friendly everyday product and food options around Edinburgh on a student budget. • Continuing conversations around branded water bottles to discourage the use of plastic water bottles, similar to the branded KeepCups.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reaching out to societies for help with the Green Guide, so let us know if you are keen to contribute any tips, recipes or suggestions. • Attending Sustain.Ed events and continuing promotion of this.

Other

- **Give It A Go** - Attended some society events– there are so many brilliant societies doing such great stuff! Shout-out to Sign Soc for their British Sign Language taster session and FOPA for their tea and postcards event.
- **Europe Week** - Liaising with **Edinburgh Global** about planning a Europe Week around the last week of March to highlight the positive contributions all our students and staff from different European countries make to our university community, particularly given the rise in xenophobia in the UK over the past couple of years.
- **Transport** - Working with the President on transport around our campuses - waiting to hear results from the University's external transport consultation they had commissioned over last semester.
- **Strategic Plan** - All sabbatical officers have been contributing to the Students' Association's new strategic plan – we've attended multiple workshops over last semester and in the past couple of weeks to ensure we have a clear vision about what we'd like to see from the Students' Association over the next six years.

VP Activities & Services: Shenan Davis-Williams

Summary

December was spent wrapping up everything from semester one and planning semester two. It was a fantastic time to reflect on everything we have been working on so far and then I had a very enjoyable Christmas. I've been preparing for what's coming up and planning priorities for the coming months.



Events

Summary	<p>December was quiet as exam period always is. However, the beginning of this semester has been full of planning events and welcoming everyone back!</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give It A Go Week (GIAGW) – full of free events organised by our societies to welcome new members - we also held our societies fair which had loads of sign ups and allowed me to speak to all of our new societies! • Christmas Calendar – we had a number of movie screening throughout the month and our Christmas market went down a treat with students. • Sports v Socs – Our third Sports v Socs took place during GIAGW and was après ski themed to keep the winter vibe going for everyone! • New mascot – Dusty made an appearance during exams by handing out lollipops and wishing students good luck. • Students' Awards – nominations for The Students' Awards are now open and we will be spending the next couple of weeks holding auditions for those who hope to perform at our first ever Students' Awards. • 2019 Sports Day planning – further discussion and planning has taken place with RAG - combining ESCA, the Sports Union and Edinburgh University Students' Association for a day of fundraising and fun themed activities. • Postgraduate events – I have gathered information from our Postgraduate reps to find out what events they would find most appealing in the hope to organise more postgraduate specific events this semester.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep club nights busy with a variety of drinks, alcoholic and non-alcoholic, available at an affordable price. • Dusty will be making an appearance throughout the semester during campaigns, club nights and society events. • Further planning and organising for our fun sports day. • Begin planning our postgraduate events. • Continue work on Sports v Socs to ensure societies are earning extra funding in a fun and sociable way.



Student Engagement

Summary	<p>Evaluating what went well with our societies in semester one and how we can carry this onto semester two. Planning the key projects I will be working on in second semester to benefit our societies as much as possible.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Society meet and greets – due to the success of these in first semester, we will now be holding an extra one in second semester to keep up-to-date with the needs of our societies. ● Activities Reps – continuing to work and support reps on their projects and we will have our first Exec meeting of 2019 at the end of this month. ● ECA – continuing to meet with the ECA representative and further our work on the use of Albertina and the eating spaces available at ECA. ● Society support – reviewing the handover guide for our societies and ensuring that it is as helpful as possible for incoming office bearers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further discussion to progress with an online booking system. - Organising a student wellbeing feedback session for 31st Jan to allow students to give their views on what the university is doing well and what the university could do to improve it. - Further work on implementing Microsoft Teams as a platform for our societies to share and swap skills, advice and events. ● Gaelic Committee – creating a strong plan based around implementing Gaelic into the future steps of the Students' Association. ● Anti-cyberbullying campaign – Researched current campaigns and made contact with the university to find out what they do to encourage online safety and how it can be improved. ● Strategic plan development – lots of work on our strategic plan - running various workshops and sub-committees to include as many people as possible.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Society meet and greets – to hold our second semester meet and greet. ● Activities Reps – Continuing support. ● Maintain communication with ECA - support their needs and continue to look into a degree show grant. ● Divinity – work closer with Divinity Reps and support them where needed.



- **Anti-cyberbullying campaign** – meet with the university and construct a strong plan for the campaign.
- Continue to push **support for our societies** in the necessary services that we should be providing for them.
- Hold **student wellbeing** feedback session and develop a plan based on the outcome.

Improving Student Services

Summary	Working on a very varied selection of our services.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green Guide' – Further research carried out for the content of the guide. • Food – Launching a brand new menu in Teviot with more vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We now have Teviot desserts and brunch. - Our most popular drinks are now available at a cheaper price. - Our Library Bar menu now has a selection of salads - a healthier option. • Humpit – Coming soon to Potterrow Dome we have a new hummus and pita bar that is 100% vegan. • Digital Transformation - Looking at the future of the Students' Association's digital transformation - the ways we communicate to students and evaluating the current website. • Library café – Following November Student Council - in contact with the university, discussing extending the library café operating hours during peak times plus more desk space allowing food.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Green Guide' – continue work with VP Community, drafting sections. • Menus – Continue to evaluate the menus of our other venues. • Humpit – Ensure we have a new café that caters to the needs of students. • Library café – continue discussion and push for changes before next exam period.

President: Eleri Connick



Summary

Welcome back!! Hope everyone had a restful and wonderful Christmas break! Cannot believe how quickly time is going. As a Sabbatical team, we had a great first semester and now we are excited to start finalising projects before we head off into the sunset on June 7th! However, until then we are full of so much energy and cannot wait to work with more of you in the next five months!

We Are Edinburgh

Summary	The WeAreEdinburgh activity is designed to start building a student community, where we are celebrating all of our achievements more!
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presented WeAreEdinburgh concept at the Corporate Services Group (CSG) all staff day and the College of Arts Humanities and Social Science (CAHSS) Policy and Resources Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Both presentations received positive feedback and resulted in lots of people thinking about how they can show students that the care and that they are proud.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with University Finance department to look into the provision of mentors for society and sports club treasures to help with writing annual reports. Also looking into the support for student entrepreneurs. • In discussion with Edinburgh University Press to look at supporting young writers. • Working with the Principal of Edinburgh College of Art to present a proposal to the University to look into different models of how we can work in partnership with the University to sell our incredible students' art work.

Members

Summary	The Students' Association exists for our members, it is essential that what members want, is at the heart of what we do.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh Global - VP Welfare and I have been working with University colleagues in the Edinburgh Global team to determine what projects we will be partnering on moving forward. There will be six key areas of work which time will be spent on: international student mentor programme; international



	<p>student support, international student survey, learning abroad, advocacy and campaigns, and events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alumni Discount - working with University Student Administration staff to benchmark the University offer with other institution and look at the process. • Transport - The University is currently working on a Transport consultation so that in March it can present a University wide analysis of what needs to be done to improve student transport. There are a group of Edinburgh students who I have put in touch with the transport team who will be helping with the consultation and getting student feedback.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Awards - The first ever 'Student Awards' are happening this April and nominations are open now! The Student Awards are open to all UoE students and I would really encourage you to put in nominations for those well-deserving students. Check out the different awards on offer on the Students' Association website: https://www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/studentawards/.

Other

- **Strategic Plans** - I have spent a lot of hours being involved with discussions on both the Student Association and University's Strategic plans.
- **Vice Principal Students** – In early February I'm involved with the recruitment process, and sitting on the interview panel, for the new Vice Principal Students. This role will be an incredibly important one to student experience.
- **Elections** - I will be spending time over the next month meeting with candidates who are wanting to run for a Sabbatical Officer position. If you are keen, or you have a friend who is, please do not hesitate to get in touch to chat about the position and to have any questions on your mind answered.
- **Thank you** to you all for coming to Student Council and making your voice heard! Have a super 2019!! Please do get in touch with any questions. My email is president@eusa.ed.ac.uk or you can call on 01316509405 or find me on Facebook as 'Eleri Pres Connick'.

VP Welfare: Kai O'Doherty



Summary

Since November, times were quieter with everyone on holiday – but I've still been up to a bunch! I order my report based on my three key objectives.

Improving Mental Health Support

Summary	This includes work around: mental health support, University policies, year abroad help, and more.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to Amendments to the 'Support for Study' Policy: The University wants to make mandatory interruptions of study possible through the policy, which we strongly oppose. I have done research and lobbied against this amendment. • Mental Health on Year Abroad Survey Launch: I've collated a survey for students who've been on a year abroad regarding mental health needs and support, to inform the University's new Learning Abroad strategy. • Suicide Prevention Campaign: Eleri and I have worked with the University to make suicide prevention posters, one aimed at concerned friends and the other signposting resources for people considering suicide.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health 1st Aid: continuing to pursue options to open up this training to more students, if financed by the University.

Combatting Sexual Violence

Summary	This includes: growing the awareness raising campaign #NoExcuse, training, and addressing the procedures survivors/victims access.
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #NoExcuse, anti-sexual harassment campaign: launching a grant for societies & clubs to get funding to run events tied to the campaign; also holding information stalls across the University. • Sexual Violence Procedures: the University SV Taskforce met, discussing improvements to reporting, procedures, and awareness strategies. Continuing to push for rapid change to make the process fearer and supportive.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymous Reporting: reviewing anonymous reporting mechanisms at the Advice Place, and within the University. • Zero Tolerance in Students' Association venues: based off of the motion in October, I'm working to make the policy and process clearer in our nightclub venues and online.
Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • #NoExcuse: a new round of phrases/text will be printed/distributed, based on student submissions.

Centering Anti-Oppression

Summary	<p>This includes: to support the Liberation Officers' work, improve support for trans students, and enhance support for international students, parents, carers and mature students.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trans and non-binary student advocacy: created our first Trans & Non-Binary Liberation Rep, and following up with the motion on tackling the transphobic materials on campus. • Thematic Review of Support for BME Students: met University staff about this review in Semester 2, which will hopefully be useful in the fight to battle institutionalized racism at UofE. • Funding BME Welcome Guide: the BME Liberation Group is putting together a Welcome Guide to help BME students starting here – get in touch with them to help if you're a BME student! • Disabled Students' Forum: Supporting Eileen, our Disabled Students' Officer, to organize a forum with the Student Disability Service on Jan 30th at 3.30pm. Disabled students can share their feedback on the service and the University, towards improvement. • College of Science & Engineering, Equality & Diversity Committee: attended their meeting, aiming to improve collaboration between our liberation work and the E&D committees of CSE.



Next Steps

- **University Equality & Diversity Committee** – there is no University-level committee tasked with addressing inequality and diversity. I'm working to change this.
- **February is LGBT+ History Month** – check out our website for some stellar keynote speakers and events!
- **Gender-neutral toilets** - I'll be working with the University to create a map of gender-neutral toilets on campus, and make it clear and easy to suggest conversion of other toilets.

Other

- **Strategic Plan** - working on the Students' Association's next in full-day workshops.
- **Elections 2019** - planning is well under-way, and I'm supporting this activity.
- **University Court** - brought up motion content such as the Post-Work Study Visa for students.
- **Edinburgh Global** - working alongside Eleri to review our Global Buddies scheme.
- **Student Centre** - development continues after attending our most recent Project Board.