



Education Committee 2

Minutes

13th February 2018

1. Members Present:

Erik Jic Shi	Christopher Gillis	Marissa Maduschke
Caroline Ingham	Julie Sharp	Hafsa Shaikh
Aoife Keane	Jessie Sou	Kayla-Megan Burns
Lewis Henderson	Arran-Claire Bracher	Daniel McAllister
Ioanna Kanari	Amy Scott	Simran Kaur
Matthew Crilly	Amari Kadura	Samuel Wai Leuk Wong
Eirik Borvik	Sena Khafaji	Sophie Hwynne
Emily Mcilhatton	Laureen Gilmour	

2. In Attendance:

Professor Sara carter, Associate Principal of Learning and Teaching, Strathclyde University

Mohammed Alhassan, Vice President Education, Strath Union

3. Staff Support:

Andi Anderson



4. Minutes and Matters Arising

There were no issues raised with the minutes of the previous meeting.

5. Professor Sara Carter, Update on the new Teaching and Learning Building

Professor Carter provided a brief update on the new learning and teaching building.

The composition of the old Architecture and Colville buildings was outlined with the main points below.

- Large and small scale teaching rooms
- Group and individual study rooms
- Student facing services - 4th floor Colville and first floor Architecture
- Disability and support services
- Considering idea for opening up a medical centre
- New Students' Union building
- Biggest single investment on a building in the university - appropriate for enhancing the student experience
- The old Architecture part of the building will be open for use by 2019, and the main ex-Colville part will be open for use by April 2020
- Further consultations will be ongoing and there are 5 guiding principles leading the plans for the building
- The principles reflect the following: 1) the University's vision, mission, strategic objectives and values. 2) Supports UG, PGT, PGR and international student recruitment and executive education. 3) Provides first class learning, teaching and student experience
- Sara Carter discussed how the new Union and learning and teaching centre will look and function

Feedback and questions

Q1 Laureen Gilmour, HaSS Faculty Rep:

Steps into main entrance, mobility issues?

A: Main entrance will be fully mobile and an evacuation lift will be installed for full mobility. This not only meets government requirements for mobility but the University also has its own internal mobility policies and this is in full compatibility. There are no plans for the Mature Students' Association (MSA) to move and this has been negotiated with the MSA.

Statement: Mohammed Alhassan, Vice President Education

I find whole project will have a huge positive impact on student experience on Strathclyde, a lot more learning space. Exam season leads to the library being full. The aspect of building a community that isn't all lecture theatres is great for bringing people together. It will make the University feel like a more homely space.



Statement: Sara Carter, Associate principal

Food on campus is a concern and students spend a lot of time outside of campus to buy food. The university has been negotiating with Strathclyde Students' Union regarding catering. There has been a 17% increase on students accessing the library and this has had a knock-on effect on things like internet usage. Sara Carter has been working with library in regards to controlling noise. Booking rooms for clubs/societies or for group work will be a part of the success of the building. Strath Union reps will be at the heart of the operating committee.

Contribution: Caroline Ingham, Business Class Rep

Catering would be a massive improvement to what we have now. The MSA has not yet confirmed over space issues.

Q2 Laureen Gilmour

The new building will have a large glass atrium, will this mean that in the summer the building will be too warm?

A: Sara Carter

There will be solar shading and the building will have to have blinds to control the indoor temperature. It will be modern and efficient. It has to reduce our carbon footprint. Not sure about solar panels but we will have green roofing. The next stage of the project will be to develop the gardens and that covers the area that was between Colville and Royal College. Will investigate whether or not there are solar panels.

Statement: Mohammed Alhassan

The purpose of this session was to give an update on the new building and to ensure reps are aware of issues on campus. How can students give feedback?

Reply: Sara Carter

Email sarah.carter@strath.ac.uk - would be delighted to have comments/questions and would encourage student involvement.

6. Faculty Rep updates

- **Engineering**
 - **Sophie**
 - Maths - it is taking some time to work out as this is reason that students are not being retained
 - Free Monday evening classes are being sought to stay. They are usually full and there is a waiting list
- **Humanities**
 - **Laureen**
 - At faculty meeting it was raised that feedback was late and there was no reason as there was no effective feedback



Mohammed Alhassan:

This feedback is essential for us to know how we are dealing with situations and from that we can create an action plan.

7. Vice President Education update

Student Partnership Agreement

- Policy document that will ensure that the University and the Students' Union work together and identify issues and opportunities as to how we can work together to improve student experience
- Section A will discuss how to improve learning and teaching
- Section B will discuss priority action areas - Mental health, careers and employability, feedback
- Encourages reps to suggest any feedback and we are open to comments

Comment: Laureen Gilmour

Number of mental health specialists should be increased. Nothing will be done unless there are more counsellors.

- Action points are not in order of importance in the SPA document
- While there is a mental health action plan and it is important that it remains at the top of the SPA
- Student Experience Committee, student led committee with equal representation on the SPA

Comment: Caroline Ingham

Student mental health should be hand and hand with learning support. It has to prevent these issues

- We will consult through every possible medium and will have extensive consultation

Comment: Matt Crilly, HaSS Faculty Rep (Postgraduate Taught)

Have worked on trying to improve counselling for years, at the start of the 2017/18 academic year this was 1.7 Full-time equivalent (FTE) counsellors. This was equivalent to 1 counsellor per 12000 students. The recommended amount is 1 counsellor per 3000 students. Worried about developing mental health awareness campaign before they improve service and it is dangerous to encourage people to use a broken service. Worried about giving university legitimacy when in actuality they are failing in the crux of it. Concerned about having this campaign without support structures in place

- If we see that as the main area to push hard on and then we can do that

Comment: Caroline Ingham

The counselling service are saying to people to use external services and this is deflecting from the university



Comment: Simran Kaur

International students can't access externals and the waiting time for NHS referrals is approximately six months

Comment: Caroline Ingham

The answer to the question raised about counselling services at congress was a non-answer

- Still have much more to do in the context of counselling

Comment: Arran

NHS is now pushing students towards University services. Group therapy is missing from this list and the current service times are not accessible. There should be a wider variety of services available

Leadership programs for reps

- Mo: Happy to discuss. Before SPA we are seeing some positive agreement, leadership program that the uni has certified leadership programs for exec and faculty/class reps. Extend it to as many reps as possible and the programs they are offering is ILM certification. There are one or two assignments that are not difficult with continuous leadership development programs. Is part of how we motivate people to be willing to take student leadership positions
- Sophie: Done a similar leadership course and it is easy and straightforward for the CV
- Emily: When would it start and how long would it run for?
- Mo: OSDU within the uni and it is required by uni that the staff are constantly running that course. Starting from this year students will have access to this. For ILM will start in October until April the following year. There may be possibilities to have this run over summer

New late submission policy

- Last semester we had a parliament and there was a lot of concern on the zero mark policy. There was a campaign started a year ago and we had a motion passed in parliament that energised the students, execs and reps to put more pressure on the uni to give us something much better than the current policy. Had a number of discussion with Academic Deans and through University committees and finally after a long time of meetings and discussions and a final consensus was agreed upon that will go across all faculties. While it still has to go senate, we are very confident that it will bring us to the end of zero marks policy. Matt started the campaign a year ago and it was from this there was a lot of pressure. The new policy will start in 2018/2019 and there is an interim policy and even now no one will be affected by zero mark policy and is more friendly.
- Mo: Will be a deduction of ten marks on the first 24 hours, 5 marks per day after that. After that you are capped to your pass mark. But after day 5 that is a zero.



- Matt: Interim policy is that harshest policy is capped at 40% at hass but engineering should remain the same.
- Amari Kadura: That policy is for hass and doesn't need to go to business.
- Caroline: We have a lot of flexibility on the post grad business course.

Changes in fee increments

- Please let us know about any fee issues within your course. President and Mo have been dealing with a case in the past few weeks and the department have frozen the fee increases. There may be other issues of concern that if you don't get it flagged up then the department will go ahead and do it and this will affect class members and future students. All we need is one student to raise the issue and other departments will take notice of them.

8. Open Questions

Q1: Simran Kaur

Cutting Italian course, only first years now will only take it to honours. German has already been cut and only sent an email before course was due to start.

A: Mohammed

Has heard about it and followed up with Tony Anderson, his feedback was that there were not enough students for the course and that's why they want to terminate it and that there are other courses for consideration. Proposed that the courses could maybe be run as minor joint honours.

Q2: Amari Kadura

Science courses will affiliate with other universities in the short term.

A: Mohammed

Those who are on the course will continue but it will affect future students.

Q3: Matt

On Italian course, HaSS lied about the number of students on the course and this was verbal and students should be wary of any verbal agreements. Secondly, SAAS has started to fund masters and courses may start raising fees to match this and reps should be wary of that and raise any issues whenever they can.

A: Mohammed

Unis will always look at ways to increase ways to raise their profits, whenever there is an increment they need to be able to justify this and there are also regulations to govern institutions and you are encouraged to contact USSA whenever you see or hear this. We have academic advisors in the advice hub.

9. Date of next meeting: Next semester