



ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Date: Thursday 11th March 2021

Time: 12:15

Room: Collaborate

Attended – 24 Apologies – 4

Chair: Chiara Menozzi – Student President

Secretary: Cecile Guilloteau – Student Representation and Support Co-ordinator

1. WELCOME

Chiara Menozzi (CM) welcome all Class Reps in attendance and briefly reminded the remits of the Academic Council.

2. STUDENT PRESIDENT UPDATE

Feedback from last meeting

It is currently not possible for Class Reps to contact their whole cohort. Chiara is still in discussions with the University to explore how this can be done and will update Class Reps as soon as possible.

Students' Union Elections

Vote is now closed and results will be announced this same Thursday 11th March at 5.00pm.

STaR Awards

The ceremony is scheduled to be on 26th April at 4.15pm and it will be a live streamed event. An amazing 157 nominations were received, that's 54 staff and 11 students nominated. Thanks to everyone who submitted nomination.

Question of the Semester

We received 84 responses. The survey informed on how students preferred studying, what they enjoyed on campus and what was their favourite catering outlet.

A full report is available on the Students' Union website and on the CR Hub area (under Question of the Semester).

3. Guest Speaker: Ailsa McMillan, Senior Lecturer in Nursing and Catherine McClintick, Lecturer in Radiography
REVIEW OF UG AND PG GRADE DESCRIPTORS

The Undergraduate and Postgraduate Grade Descriptor is being reviewed and the University is seeking students' views on it. A copy of the draft review has been circulated prior to the meeting.

Class Reps find the updated descriptor is clearer and it offers more consistency across different categories. It is felt that the grade descriptor is not well communicated to entry students and students have poor knowledge of it.

Class Reps advised that students were regularly confused with the feedback they received and how this matched assignment criteria and grade descriptor. Students are invited to contact their lecturers to discuss feedback and seek clarification. Feedforward is now an item at each SSCs and Class Reps can bring issues around feedback to SSCs.

Guest speakers agreed that there could be confusion around feedback and there should be an open discussion about it between students and staff.

4. SENIOR COMMITTEE UPDATE

Senate

The next meeting is on 17th March. Any relevant update will be communicated.

Student Experience Committee

Assessment, Progression and Board of Examiners

SEC is recommending the following to be approved by University Senate

Recommendation 1: The version of the [interim regulations currently published on the website](#) to continue to apply for the remainder of academic year 2020-21 with no further modifications and for all programmes, including those delivered by collaborative partners.

Recommendation 2: Exam Board dates to be adjusted where possible and necessary in consultation with Heads of Division.

Recommendation 3: The majority of online exams to be completed within a window of 24 hours with bespoke arrangements agreed for all other exams.

Recommendation 4: The development of staff and student guidance on academic integrity in online assessment.

Decolonising the curriculum

Work is ongoing and students interested in taking part in the project should contact Chiara Menozzi.

The Hub

The University is keen to make the Hub as accessible as possible and will look at the name of all sections and structure of sites. Feedback will be sought from students and information will be circulated on due time.

School Academic Boards

The Assam board advised they appreciated the PALS scheme and valued support it has brought to students. A lot of positive feedback has been received across the University.

5. CLASS REP FEEDBACK

ILPs

Some Class Reps expressed concerns regarding how ILPs were considered and how students with ILPs were treated. It is felt that in some programme staff are not aware of the one week extension students with ILPs automatically have, other students have been advised that ILPs were irrelevant in PG programmes. Class Reps have been advised to raise this with their Programme Leader, then Head of Division if unresolved. The Students' Union can provide support if required.

WI-FI

This is still an issue and connection remains poor in halls. Students should contact gmuwifisupport@gmu.ac.uk as soon as they experience an issue. CM will also take this forward.

Recorded lectures

Class Reps debated recorded lectures. In some programmes students feel they are not useful and it is challenging to engage with it whilst other finds it useful as they can review the lectures. Generally "screen fatigue" has reduced student engagement with online learning.

Outdated material

Some lecturers are using outdated material and students feels this is not appropriate. Chiara Menozzi advised students to contact their Module Co-ordinator, then Programme Leader and Head of Division to raise their concerns.

Funding for placement

Students are concerned there is not enough support to students with placement. The fund only reimburses expenses and students have to pay upfront which can put some in difficulties. Chiara Menozzi advised that such decision sit at Scottish Level and the University cannot change this. She will feedback to relevant staff so it can be raised.

Students who already applied to discretionary funding can re-apply this semester.

Write and Cite

Guidance has changed and was not communicated to students. Students added it is sometimes difficult to find appropriate advice on this. Chiara will follow this.

Next Academic Year

Next year academic calendar has been approved however details of teaching delivery is yet to be known. Discussions are underway and students will be advised as soon as possible.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

Chiara thanked Class Reps for attending today's meeting and advised this was her last Academic Council meeting.

Minutes Written

12/03/21

Cecile Guilloteau

Student Representation and Support Co-ordinator