

1. **Strategic Alliance Framework (SAF) Updates**

Information/Feedback

- a. Improve the feedback loop for personal circumstances
 - i. We are focusing on closing the feedback loop to improve early intervention measures and support such as extensions, reasonable adjustments, pastoral support, additional study skills support, flexible study options and more
 - ii. **Action:** We had a meeting with relevant people in the university. It has been agreed there will be interim improvements with a longer-term plan for a care focused approach. A workshop is taking place on the 23rd of January to decide on what approach will be taken.
- b. Holistic student support and fee administration review
 - i. Working with the university's CFO (chief financial officer) on reviewing the possibility of monthly fee instalments for fee paying students
 - ii. Working to create closer working between the University's finance team and Strath Union's Advice Hub (such as methods of communication, flexibility for missed payments under special circumstances allowable by the finance team when referred from Strath Union)
 - iii. Reviewing the impact of the fee increases on flexible and part-time fees compared to full-time students. Determine approach to reduce disadvantage to widening access students of requiring flexible study options
 - iv. **Action:** Meeting with relevant people from the uni. A new student debt policy is being drafted and the plan is to include things like monthly fee installments in this.
- c. Ethical investment
 - i. Asking for divestment from fossil fuels, positive impact investment (investing in things that are helpful), engagement (pushing companies towards more sustainable work) as well as transparency and a clear review cycle to allow students to improve the policy in the future
 - ii. Please continue to direct students to the people and planet petition (<https://peopleandplanet.org/petitions/university-of-strathclyde-divest-from-all-fossil-fuels>).
 - iii. The policy has been delayed multiple times with the uni changing what meeting it will go to. Any work we can do to create noise and pressure from the broader student body can support this policy going through this year.
- d. Education for sustainable development
 - i. Aim is to support students at all levels contributing to what this looks like and feeling confident they are educated on sustainability

- ii. **Action:** Meeting with the head of the centre for sustainable development went well. To ensure students are consulted at all levels of the uni we're doing a survey to reps to see which departments have been consulting them on ESD and in what ways. We're also exploring how to best set students up to expect sustainability to be taught in their course and recognise it when it is taught.

2. Manifesto

- a. Can't Study if the World's on Fire
 - i. Personal circumstances review in SAF (wellbeing support)
 - ii. Ethical Investment and ESD in SAF (Sustainability and climate anxiety support)
- b. Help Reps Help You
 - i. Pilot Project encouraging more working between reps, work on enhancement (improving the agreed standard of education) as well as assurance (making sure the agreed standards for education are met)
 - ii. **Action:** Running focus groups with pilot project reps to get feedback on first semester and improve for second semester
 - iii. **Action:** Creation of student staff role to support with creation of handbook and training materials for PGR reps (Role for PGR students only)
<https://www.strathunion.com/jobs/vacancy/1422/>
- c. Students in the Know
 - i. No action this month

3. VP Welfare

- a. See: Improve the feedback loop for personal circumstances
- b. See: Holistic student support and fee administration review

4. Other Activities

Information

- Tertiary Quality Student Expert Group – Discussing AI with Scottish level AI group developing guidance for unis
- Teaching Excellence Awards planning - Categories, dates, promotion
- Meeting developing uni level guidance for board of examiners
- Strategy catch-up with people and planet
- Quality Assurance Committee – Role is to make sure education across the uni meets standards
 - Quality assurance framework for University of Strathclyde Bahrain
 - Analysis of Annual Module Monitoring Exercise – Reviewing modules with pass rates below 75%
 - Presenting Strath Union representation report
- PGR rep meeting to discuss actions for student staff role
- Helping with exam breakfasts
- Senate discipline committee

- TQER Institutional Meeting (meeting to discuss the tertiary quality enhancement review and the uni and student involvement in this new system for quality reviews)
- Student Journeys Working Group – Looking at retention, attainment and progression
- Admissions Management Committee – Raised the importance of the Arts and Culture fund and had this noted in minutes
- Strath Union Board of Trustees – Approved exploration of operating in Bahrain, move to 5 officer roles provisionally for one year to test this concept while we do a broader governance review, approval of accounts
- Catch up with head of Doctoral School about their new strategy and closer working
- Education Committee
- Education Strategy Committee – Raised need for plan for participation fund, hardship fund and arts and culture fund
- Meeting with head of PGR development
- Elections fair

Upcoming Activities (Come chat to feed in to these)

- STARs (Volunteering awards) and TEAs (Teaching excellence awards) planning
- Personal Circumstances Workshop

If there's any of this you're interested in, would like to support with or want to know more about please get in touch at strathunion.vpeducation@strath.ac.uk