

## **Establishment of Discipline Representatives and School Councils**

**Proposer: Liam Fuller (Education Committee)**

**Seconder: Donna Connelly (Education Officer)**

### **Council Notes:**

1. Class Reps are often hard to reach, and schools often have a multitude of disciplines that fail to highlight the true breadth of issues and good practice within them.
2. Other areas of the HE Sector have established a good guide that can help solve this problem.

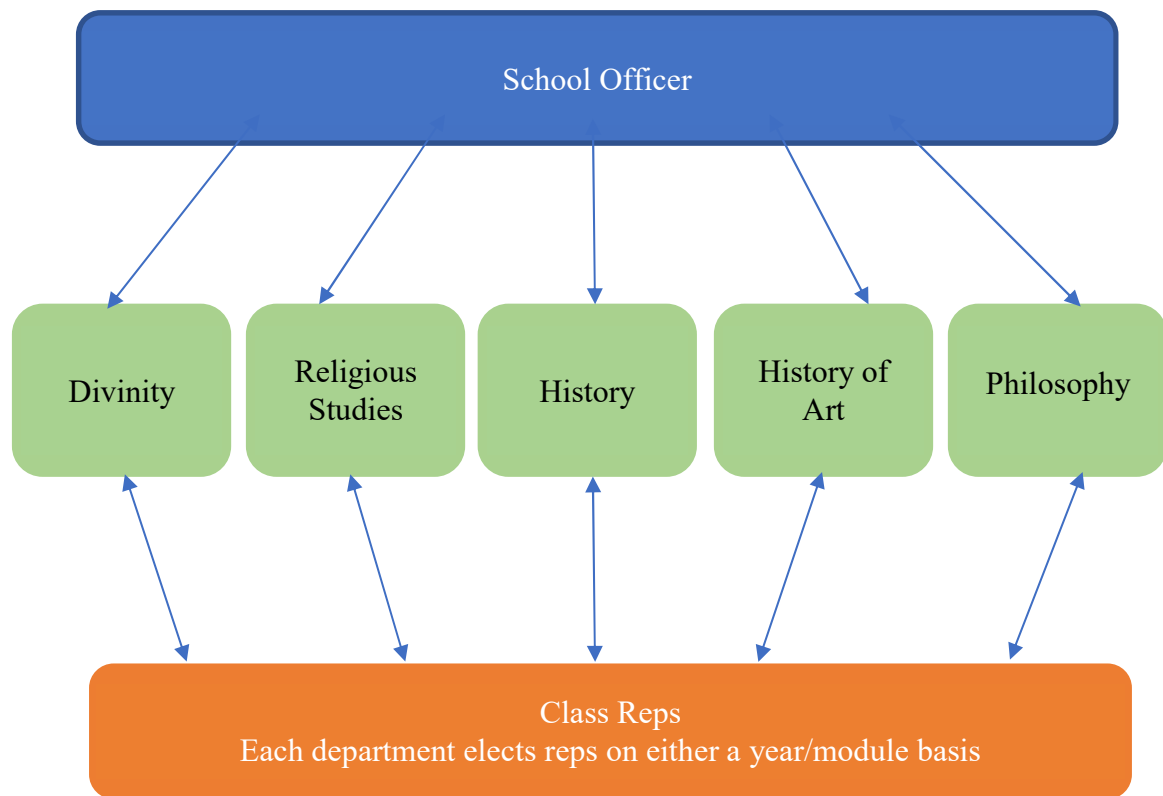
### **Council Believes:**

1. To effectively represent students and bring about a decent sense of community within our departments, we need to change how we deal with student representatives and give more voices to the different disciplines within schools.
2. Directors of teaching and learning within schools value the efforts of school conveners but note it is still difficult to gather enough from their experience based on the discipline gap.
3. Evidence from teaching reviews within the university note that some schools have such disparate disciplines that it is sometimes not possible to cover all feedback from students and help improve all aspects.

### **Council Resolves:**

1. To establish a secondary tier of class reps to be known as Discipline Reps to exist between School Officers and Class Reps – the list is in Appendix 1 and a visual representation of their function exists in Appendix 2.
2. Each role will be responsible for coordinating with their reps within their schools and reporting this to the School Officer. A fuller role description, election process and other information is within Appendix 3)
3. The list above should be reviewed within the University Teaching & Learning Committee to ensure this list is practical and covers all areas

## Appendix 1: Divinity, History & Philosophy



## Appendix 2:

- i. School of Divinity, History & Philosophy
  1. Divinity Officer
  2. History Officer
  3. Philosophy Officer
  4. History of Art Officer
- ii. School of Education
  1. MA Education
  2. PGDE Primary
  3. PGDE Secondary
- iii. School of Language, Literature, Music & Visual Culture
  1. Celtic & Anglo-Saxon Studies
  2. English
  3. Film & Visual Culture
  4. Gaelic
  5. French
  6. German
  7. Language & Linguistics
  8. Literature in a World Context
  9. Music Education
  10. Music
  11. Music & Communities
  12. Spanish
- iv. School of Law
  1. LLB
  2. LLB with English Law
- v. School of Social Sciences
  1. Anthropology
  2. Politics & IR
  3. Sociology
- vi. School of Business
  1. Accountancy
  2. Economics
  3. Finance
  4. Business Management
  5. Real Estate
- vii. School of Biological Sciences
  1. Zoology
  2. Plant & Soil Science
- viii. School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition
  1. Biomedical Sciences
  2. Molecular Medical Sciences
- ix. School of Psychology
  1. Psychology
  2. Behavioural Studies
- x. School of Engineering
  1. Chemical
  2. Structural/Civil
  3. Electrical/Electronic

- 4. Mechanical
- 5. Petroleum
- xi. School of Natural & Computing Sciences
  - 1. Chemistry
  - 2. Computing Science
  - 3. Physics
  - 4. Mathematics
- xii. School of Geosciences
  - 1. Archaeology
  - 2. Geography
  - 3. Geology

Appendix 3:

### **How are Discipline Representatives elected?**

Students can nominate themselves without a proposer for election via MyAberdeen using the quiz function.

### **What is the remit of the Discipline representatives?**

Generally the remit of our Discipline representatives is:

- to act as a key liaison between the student cohort and the school staff;
- to collect relevant comments, feedback, opinions, and suggestions from their fellow students and communicate them to the staff, either through the relevant Staff-Student Liaison/Consultative Committee (SSLC), in person, or through the School Officers;
- to represent the opinions and concerns of their fellow students at a discipline level as and when required;
- to make recommendations on any matter relating to the content, structure, teaching method, or method of assessment of their disciplines;
- to consider proposals for new or amended modules or programmes and provide feedback, comments, and recommendations;
- to review the results of student questionnaires and discuss these at SSLC meetings.

### **Do Class Representatives sit on any discipline committees other than Student/Staff Committees and how many times per year do the committees meet?**

Working with schools, Discipline Representatives usually only sit on the discipline Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC), which generally meet once per semester. Occasionally Discipline Representatives will be asked to consider issues out with the SSLC meetings. In some disciplines the Discipline Representatives and the School Officer are asked to sit in on Programme Board meetings for certain agenda items.

The School Officer meets with the Discipline and Class representatives at least once per academic session and this is a meeting to bring up school wide issues, develop constructive ways to solve issues and present reports to the Teaching & Learning Committees. Representatives are encouraged to liaise with the School Officer and Education Committee as often as possible as they attend School Committee meetings, and can pass on any comments or issues on behalf of student body.

### **Who is responsible for leading the discipline staff/student meetings?**

In some disciplines the Staff-Student Liaison Committees are convened by a member of staff or the School Officer. It is possible for the School Officer to support the Discipline Reps in this way to help maximise the student

feedback. The agenda and discussion can sometimes be driven by the students themselves, with the support of staff if required. Generally, the minutes are taken by a member of staff, but in some disciplines the students are encouraged undertake this themselves.