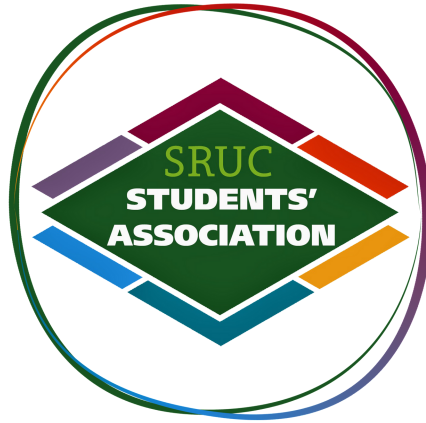




SRUC
STUDENTS'
ASSOCIATION



ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT
2019/20



SRUC Students' Association
Annual Accountability Report
2019/20

DRAFT REPORT

Awaiting approval by the SRUCSA Executive Committee

A word from our Sabbatical Officers

Student President: Hayley Colbert

Thank you for electing me, Hayley Colbert, as your Student President of SRUCSA. It has been an honour upholding this opportunity to lead SRUCSA into gaining another step closer to providing SRUC students the best possible experience at SRUC.

Our work has mainly consisted of raising awareness of the students' association and taking part in several projects to improve the student experience at SRUC. A large capacity of this role is taken up working in the background, out of site. In my attempt to get to know student and chat to them first-hand, I have been visiting campuses and working on the frontline whenever I have had the chance. I know how important it is to interact with students and create vital relationships. The largest project that I took on has been redesigning our SRUCSA leader hierarchy to create a more adequate and equal representation over every campus at SRUC.

I came into this role expecting to change the world and I quickly learnt that is going to be unlikely, especially within a year, however, knowing that hitting smaller goals and prioritising the needs of students can, and does lead to larger achievements. I am not someone who particularly likes coming out of my comfort zone, but I have pushed my boundaries, boosted my confidence and became a stronger individual, even through the difficult times.

Student Vice President: Katie Dubarry

This year has been one of many struggles and many joys. Some of my proudest moments actually came very early on my year as Vice-President. Giving a speech at my own graduation ceremony was something special, the day was a whirlwind of happy students and happy families. We'll all miss having an in-person graduation this year, but I hope all the graduands feel proud of what they've achieved nonetheless.

A small piece of work of which I am particularly proud was working on a new Trans* inclusive policy alongside SRUC staff and the Athena Swann committee. Advocating for the rights of trans* staff and students, who often suffer some of the worst oppression in our society, truly represents what I personally, SRUCSA, and the student movement, more widely stand for.

This year has been challenging as much as it has been rewarding. This is difficult work to align with family life, I think there's a reason we don't see many student leaders nationally who are also parents. All of the SRUCSA team deserve my thanks for their support throughout.

I have been at SRUC for a while now. I started out on the NC Agriculture at Oatridge in August 2014, so by the time I finish it will be just about 6 years. This place changed my life, it has allowed me to change and grow as a person, and opened my eyes to a future far beyond my initial expectations. When I heard the news in January that I was awarded a place on the EASTBIO PhD programme, I was humbled and so, so grateful for all those who have helped me on this journey of learning & life. And it all started with learning to turn a sheep!

In light of all this, it's a bittersweet end to my term. SRUC and SRUCSA have been like another family to me, one that I chose. I'm excited to hear from afar what our new team get up to this coming year, I'm confident that SRUCSA's star will continue to rise.

Strong foundations

For SRUCSA to thrive, we have created and maintained our foundations by sticking to our vision and mission statements.

Our vision

"A community and culture of confident and successful students who are proud to be part of SRUC."

Students from almost every campus have provided feedback stating that they feel part of a community, feel like a family who can support each other.

Our mission

"To enhance opportunities for students to further develop their student experience with effective; communication, representation and engagement."

This year has been the best year yet in terms of student engagement. The more students willing to help us communicate and represent their classes the better we can make a more effective student experience.



Speak Week

In November we ran the 3rd annual Speak Week feedback drive. Speak Week cards were filled in at all campuses and an online version was also made available. Speak Week seeks to gather feedback on key areas of the learning experience: course content, facilities & resources, course delivery, assessment & feedback, and help & support. This year a total of 525 comments were received, we were delighted with the level of participation.

We approached this initiative with an interpretivist mind-set as we know that students' experiences cannot be reduced down to numerical comparisons. Measures such as statistical significance are irrelevant once we understand how seemingly small numbers of negative experiences can indicate insurmountable difficulties for individual students. As such, we followed a Qualitative Data Approach (QDA) for analysis. Our proximity to the student experience (as recent or current students) making us particularly well-placed to carry out this type of interpretation.

This means that a number of interesting themes were identified in the key areas, as well as an unexpected theme around community. The final report was created as a Sway, an innovative presentation for us that provides an optimal screen reading experience. You can access the full report here: [Speak Week report](#)

We recently received responses to the Speak Week report from SRUC management. Considering the work ongoing around the coronavirus response, we will pass these responses on to the incoming team to allow them to monitor future actions.

Speak Week: COVID-19 edition

SRUC approached us for help with collecting feedback about the online learning experience during lockdown. They specifically asked for a speak week like survey, which goes some way to show how much impact this annual project has. As a team we have turned this around rapidly, setting up a three question online survey using Mentimeter within two weeks. After opening for just one week, we received 273 responses. This was an excellent result for an online survey of this type. We asked what people have missed during lockdown, what things have helped the students learning experience during this time, and what students would have changed if they have been in charge of the course? After analysis of the results, the feedback will directly input into SRUC's decision-making around learning and teaching for next year.



Education *by VP Katie*

Internal

Much of my year has been focused on education, I really wanted to work towards improving the learning experience for SRUC students. I have held representative positions on a number of SRUC committees this year, including:

- Learning and teaching committee
- Program approvals and academic standards committee
- SRUC board
- Institutional enhancement themes group

I have also served as a student voice at annual dialogues and ILRs. Here I've been able to press staff to go beyond their usual practice, from giving advice on how to increase partnership with the students, to questioning whether they have considered the impact of climate grief on students in certain subject areas. I soon realised that these internal forums are great ways to push forward student interests.

In January I was asked to participate in the new 'Intro to Teaching at SRUC' day, organised by CELT. I delivered a workshop to staff members on the complex committee structure that class reps navigate, and led discussions around the meaning of student voice. This was an excellent opportunity to engage with staff, and construct a brand new training session.

External/Sector work

This year I've also upheld a number of external commitments and these have really enriched my years work. I was asked by NUS Scotland to sit as their representative on SHEEC, The Scottish higher education executive committee. This group has a strategic role in driving forward Scottish institutions enhancement work. This includes, for example, deciding on Scotland's enhancement themes.

I was impressed by the collegiate way that all of Scotland's higher education institutions come together in this forum, not only to discuss the good things they're doing but also the difficulties they are facing. It was a really good opportunity to get involved in high-level work, making sure that student views are at the heart of this level of decision-making. It was also a fantastic way to hear about good practice happening across the sector, as well as an excellent opportunity to network with vice principals or equivalent level of management from across the country. The support put in place for me to participate in these meetings by both NUS Scotland and sparks was excellent and really helped me to understand the papers, the processes and where my influence could be most helpful.

I was asked to join the QAA student lead project steering group soon after the summer. Each year the caps SLP produces a resource or output that has been explicitly driven and asked for by student officers. This year the group decided not to ask for new resources to be produced but to spend some time in our own institutions role testing previously creative resources for caps QA. I looked at using their timeline, and also some work around the student guide to evidence was being planned with Pauline Hanesworth before lockdown occurred. I'm hopeful that Pauline will take up the opportunity to do work with next years offices around the students guide to evidence, as I think it's a really helpful plain English resource to help understand the use of data and evidence. This group was really enjoyable to be part of, it was an excellent way of networking with student officers doing similar roles, and there were some very creative uses of the resources going on within the group. I'm very happy to have helped QAA in this work, and I think it went in no small way towards helping me be asked to participate in their international online conference at the beginning of June.

SPARQS Invited me to join their universities advisory group this year. As the name suggests, this group comprised a number of members from across the higher education sector who helped her help to guide sparks on the strategic and operational planning. This was a very valuable opportunity to get to know the workings of the organisation better, and strengthen our links.

I firmly believe that this work has reputational gain for SRUCSA. As well as the aforementioned QAA conference I was also invited to speak on a panel at the shed/Cedar conference, unfortunately postponed due to coronavirus, Record a piece with Carol Hunter of fife college SA for NUS lead and change colleges, and I've also been featured on the sparks blog alongside James our SADO.

Emergency COVID-19 response

Soon before lockdown happened, Hayley and I were invited onto the SRUC operational contingency planning group. Through this we were involved in the emergency planning around campus closures and the pivot to online learning. I was further involved in the planning for learning teaching and assessment, notably through my membership of PAASC. For example, here I was able to advocate for lowering the word count on alternative assessments, with final guidance being for a 1000 word piece.

I am particularly proud of the work I put in around help not hinder. After researching the positions of various universities across Scotland I presented this information to Registry, who were enthusiastic about putting in place a help not hinder policy. The final policy that has been put in place is as good as any across the sector, and will provide the best chances for this year's cohort of students to achieve the grades they deserve.

At the time of writing, I am involved in a number of working groups looking at planning for the next academic year. This includes the learning and teaching planning group, the inductions planning group, and the community group.





Menstrual Equality *by VP Katie*

SRUCSA have a proud history of working in the menstrual equality activist space. Since ex-officer Gemma Jones spearheaded the provision of free menstrual products in bathrooms on Ayr campus, a lot has changed. Fast forward a few years and the Scottish government first trialled then mandated that free period products would be available in all bathrooms in schools, colleges, and universities across Scotland. It is likely that in the future this provision will be extended to other communal spaces and workplaces. This is in no small part due to the pressure put on government by student activist over the years.

As an advocate for reusable menstrual products and equality of access, I was excited to work in this space during my sabbatical year. I undertook a number of different actions.

At the very start of the year I repeated an activity that I had previously carried out as campus officer, Placing pads, tampons and information on reusables into every fresh pack that went out to students. I also created some new visuals highlighting some of the benefits of reusables. These allowed us to get the message out to every new student that there are free products available on campus. Thanks to all the SRUCSA team for the bag packing and hard work distributing the Packs.

Also at the beginning of the year, we showcased the new reusable products on SRUCSA stalls at a variety of welcome week events. This was the perfect chance to introduce students to the campaign.

In October, I organised a training day for staff and SRUCSA officers. This was a great session led by one of the trainers from our supplier Hey Girls, it gave everyone a space to discuss menstruation, ask any questions they might have, and discover the range of products that we are stocking on campuses.

Taking a SRUCSA RUMPS stall to the SRUC careers fair was a great move! Next to our main stall, stacked high with menstrual cups and washable pads, Molly from Hey Girls also came to help. The cups and pads flew off the stall as students from all campuses flocked to learn about and pick up their own RUMPS. We gave out nearly all of the local campuses stock, and deemed the session a huge success.

Emergency COVID-19 response

After the UK went into lockdown, students were no longer able to access the free period products on campus. We know that the lockdown situation has led to increased barriers to accessing adequate period protection across society. For those who are self isolating or shielding it could be more difficult to get to the shops to purchase the products they need. In some situations, even if someone was able to visit the shops, ruptures in the usual supply chain meant that stocks of some products were low in some instances. To help ensure that all our students are able to access the period products they need during this time, I coordinated with Hey Girls so that our students could access a new home delivery service. Thanks to this work students are able to access an easy-to-use survey, choose which products they would like to have delivered, enter their details and then receive a package direct to their door. To set this up I had to investigate the options with our supplier and make sure that what was put in place was feasible, and acceptable to the period dignity management team, in terms of budget for example. As of writing on the 20th of May, over 55 responses have been received by Hey Girls. The number of reusable pads and cups ordered during this initial period is enough to cover 265 years of periods.

Class Reps *by VP Katie*

The class rep system is a fundamental part of ensuring a good learning and teaching experience for students across SRUC. The class rep project has been part of the student partnership agreement for a number of years, as successive teams of officers have worked to improve its function.

This year we have worked extensively with sector agency SPARQS in this area and have benefited from their expertise in increasing levels of partnership between staff and students. We embarked on a project to create and rollout a new class rep job description, a document which will help staff and students understand the role of class rep.

The first major step in this project was to conduct a number of staff workshops across all three faculties. These attracted a range of staff from both teaching and support roles. The workshops helped us to tease out from staff what they really need and want from class reps, and also helped to highlight pinch points throughout the year which make it more difficult for staff or reps to fulfil their partnership roles. We visited Aberdeen, Oatridge, and Barony campus over the course of three days; car sharing to reduce both the cost and carbon footprint of the journeys.

The next step was to analyze these data and start to shape it into a usable form. Unfortunately, in-person workshops had to be delayed due to poor weather and eventually cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. Unperturbed, I created an online asynchronous version of the workshop using Padlet, an online post-it note board tool. The padlet was circulated to a team of internal participants as well as our colleagues from Sparqs. All responses from the initial workshops had been entered into the Padlet and the aim of the session was to categorize those responses into “essentials”, “enhancements”, and “nice to haves”. Comments could also be at photos or commented on for further details. This allowed us to determine an initial ranking of which parts of the class rep role are most important.

Once this information was distilled it became easier to pull out the main key parts of the class rep role, which will form part of the final document. As the aim is also to increase partnership, we took these elements to class reps at one of our biweekly online meetings. I created a Mentimeter survey to ask them if they thought these areas accurately reflected their role as a class rep. This produced some interesting results, serving as a “reality check”, and helped to pinpoint the parts that should really be emphasised in the final job role document.

At the time of writing a draft document is being formulated. Once the first draft is complete it will be circulated to the initial participants of the workshops to ask for their feedback and see if it accurately reflects their thoughts on the class rep system. It will also be circulated to current class reps for their feedback. Once any feedback has been integrated, we will move to finalising the document into an attractive, easy to read format ready for distribution at welcome weeks and inductions.

I am also currently finishing up an additional output, a “year in the life” timeline. This handy infographic will go into the class rep manual for next year and provides a handy way for reps to see where their commitments lie throughout the academic year.

Following our work on this, James and I were asked to participate in an interview for the Sparqs blog. You can read it here: [Sparqs blog interview](#)

Emergency COVID-19 response

After campus closure, we segued rapidly to online representation. Within two weeks we set up a new student space on Microsoft teams, and began holding regular meetings for class reps as well as the wider student body. These meetings have proved successful, participation from class reps is good, with a range and number of reps equivalent to an average on-campus campus council.

SRUCSA Awards

This year, the fourth year of the SRUCSA Awards, collected the highest number of participants ever, more than double compared to last year. Approximately 77 staff members, 43 student members and six clubs/societies were nominated by 140 students. The SRUCSA Awards was created to motivate us all; exam time is always stressful, but this year has been particularly tough for everyone due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The nomination statements received from our student and staff members were truly heart-warming and appeared to make their day during these stressful times.

In the past, the winners of the awards were presented with their certificate at campus celebrations but due to the ongoing pandemic, this cannot go ahead. The nominees are normally handed their certificates face-to-face, but all certificates were received through email or the post this year. Because of this, certificates were awarded faster, smoother and more easily. Previously, it has taken a very long time to give out awards and some weren't even claimed so SRUCSA may have to reconsider the best options to hand out the awards certificates next year.

As well as the SRUCSA Awards being a nice event for students to show their appreciation, it also has its benefits for the Students' Association. This event helps SRUCSA to further communicate with fellow students; reminding them of who we are and why we are here. The event also helps SRUCSA develop better relationships with staff members. We care about how SRUCSA is perceived by others in the institution and strive to show what we can do but it is always nice to have an informal, fun event that means a lot.

and the winners are...

Student of the Year

Aberdeen Campus
Ayr Campus
Barony Campus
Edinburgh Campus
Elmwood Campus
Oatridge Campus

Ellen Oakley
Angela Miller
Johnny Walls
Amber Jardin
Kim Steele
Andrew Beverly

Staff Member of the Year

Aberdeen Campus
Ayr Campus
Barony Campus
Edinburgh Campus
Elmwood Campus
Oatridge Campus

Mellanie Robson
Joy Kendall
Claire Hodgkins
Jenny Thomson
Isla Brown
John McGregor

Club/Society of the Year

Aberdeen Campus

Craibstone Rural Skills Club

Student Mental Health Agreement

This year, the student mental health agreement consisted of the following key areas.

- #I'mwithShadythedog – This campaign will further promote SRUC / SRUCSA support of mental and emotional well-being through our partnership with SANE.
- SRUC / SRUCSA will audit and update Student Support Service information available to prospective students / students prior to the start of their course.
- Supporting each other, to support our students – SRUC / SRUCSA recognise the need to support the dedicated cross campus SMHA team.
- SRUC / SRUCSA will introduce 'Tea and Chat' events at each of our six campuses.
- SRUC will set up and deliver a 'Well-being and Words' group at Elmwood Campus. It is anticipated in future years; this will be rolled out to our other campuses.
- To continue to deliver a range of activities throughout the year to help students manage their own health and emotional wellbeing and promote the support available to students throughout the year in a variety of ways.

Promoting the #I'm with Shady Campaign

We have continued to promote the black dog campaign by giving out free resources; keyrings, badges, and mini Labrador teddies at events such as the Careers Faire. During these events, the big version of Shady was present. Some social media posts about the campaign was also promoted throughout the year. Bright purple lanyards with Shady's paws have been created for all staff members who have gained their Scottish Mental Health First Aid Training so students know who they can turn to for help.

Student Support Audit Update

Phase two of the transformation project was based around student support. The team analysed and evaluated the new proposal and sent feedback on it. We've made sure that students will not be at a disadvantage of SRUC's new plans and suggested additional ideas to improve it further.

The Big White Wall platform was discovered by a member of our team which is now live and a huge success. We have, and must continue to, promote this, especially just now with the lockdown.

We helped in the development of the mySRUC app by providing support information from each campus in one easily accessible place for students. Having all the information in one place has meant that students can be directed to the app for the relevant information.

Supporting each other, to support our students

Throughout the year, regular meetings were held to make time for informal catch ups and to provide the chance to help each other where necessary. During lockdown, we have been able to reach out to staff members from multiple campuses, of whom are directly involved in supporting students, plus staff members from different departments, who have now become part of the Student Mental Health Agreement.

Tea and Talk

Tea and Talk sessions were set up at each campus so that student could have a break from their studies and de-stress. The sessions were free to attend and open to all students and staff with free hot/cold drinks and food. Conversation cards were left on tables to help everyone get conversations rolling. Each of our six campuses ran their own events, tailored to what would work best for the needs of the students. During the Careers Faire, we hosted a cross campus Tea and Talk in Elmwood's refectory for students to have the opportunity to speak with other campus students.

Wellbeing and Words

We initiated the book club primarily to encourage reading and writing among the group, this became the least important factor over time. The students benefitted more from the safe space provided in which they could form friendships and discuss ideas, feelings, challenges, and accomplishments within a small and supportive setting. It has shown that with minimal financial and staff input, we can bring groups of students together to provide an enjoyable break from the daily college routine while maintaining their focus and engagement for their studies

Mental Wellbeing Activities

April is the stress awareness month, and for this, we decided to develop and run a number of events. We had to reconsider what events to do because of the COVID-19 lockdown. These virtual events consisted of Tea and Talk, Pet Interaction Sessions and Yoga with Pilates. We are keen to create more permanent online clubs for students during summer and the next academic year to help students manage their wellbeing.

SRUCSA Leaders

Elmwood Campus Officer: Cara Sangster

Meetings

Student Liaison Committee meetings took place in March 2020 and Nov 2019, both had a good turn out from students, class reps.

Campus Council meetings were held on 25/03/2020, 25/02/2020, 15/01/2020, and 30/10/2019. All had a reasonable turn out from class reps.

International Women's Day

IWD was on Sunday 8th March, so the stall was held on the Monday 9th March. Cards with positive, motivational, and supportive messages were handed out, along with sweets and stickers. Students were asked to think about what changes they could make to be more supportive, what women inspired them and why.

Events Society

Elmwood students set up the events society in 2019. They have held events in the student lounge area of residence and the sports hall; all of which have been open to all students on campus. Activities have included film nights, football, basketball, and mixed games, Mario kart and video games nights, and a Christmas dinner evening.

Football Club

Elmwood students set up football club in the hope that there could be an SRUC league, and all campuses could have a team. It is hoped that this club will be fully established for students to take part next academic year once a suitable space is located for training.

January Blue Monday stall

Tried to make everyone's day a little bit brighter - had chats, handed out sweets and fruit, and ask students to write each other a positive message or draw something, one student even printed off Dory the fish and stuck it to the poster!

Other noteworthy events and activities

Nov 2019, BBC filmed students, including myself, on campus to raise awareness of students voting in elections.

Drop-in sessions were carried out in the Main Building and Halls of Residence for students throughout the year.

A sponsored indoor cycle was due to take place in April 2020, students planned to raise funds for Help for Heroes. Unfortunately, it was cancelled due to COVID-19 but will be hopefully be rescheduled.

Students have raised points regarding the canteen through Campus Councils and drop-in sessions which have been communicated to the manager, and improvements have now been made. The canteen staff were also happy to have a box for recycling crisp packets. This is to fundraise for SCAA (Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance) & the Crisps for Helimed Campaign.

SRUCSA Leaders

Edinburgh Campus Officer: Andy Robinson

My proudest moment of this year was having a policy proposal I had written passed by the NUS Scotland Conference. The policy, which can be seen opposite, is regarding the stigma around mental health disorders, a subject very personal to me. As the policy was passed by the conference, it will now form part NUS's work around Scotland and form part of their mental health working group. This was a great achievement and the first time SRUCSA have had policy passed at NUS Scotland Conference.

I was also honoured to be SRUCSA's disabled students delegate at the NUS UK Liberation conference in May. The conference was an opportunity for Black, Women, LGBT+, Trans, and Disabled students, from across the UK to come together and set NUS's direction in terms of liberation for the coming year. Voting on policy has not yet closed at the time of writing, but details of policy and elections will be available via the NUS website.

On campus I have concentrated on representation. Organising Campus Council meetings, attending SLC's, and representing SRUCSA on the Student Support and Engagement Committee. In addition, I have also supported a small number of students through misconduct hearings.

Having been involved with SRUCSA for the past three years, it is with a heavy heart I leave SRUCSA and SRUC. However, as graduation approaches, I am also excited about what opportunities may lay ahead.

So long and thanks for all the fish!

NUS Scotland Policy Proposal

Lets talk about mental health. No, not that sort of mental health!

Context

Mental health is a priority for the student movement, government, and society as a whole. We are living in an age of mental health crisis and public conversation around this complex area is welcomed. However, some mental health sufferers have been alienated from the conversation.

The term 'mental health' has become synonymous with a range of terms which we take to mean:

- Mental wellbeing → includes the things we can all do to make sure our mental health is as good as it can be in our day to day lives.
- Ill/poor mental health → periods of severe ill mental health from which recovery can be possible.
- Mental health disorders (such as, but not limited to, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, post-traumatic stress disorder, or personality disorders) → lifelong conditions where recovery is unlikely and management is often the best possible outcome.

Awareness raising initiatives are great, but people still go quiet when someone mentions they are schizophrenic. Support workers still suggest inappropriate care strategies. And people still call the police when someone is in psychosis, when what they really need is a doctor.

People with mental health disorders continue to face discrimination in education, the workplace, and wider society. They are more likely to be victims of police violence, due the misconception that they are a danger to others. With overstretched NHS mental health services, many people can be living with symptoms for many years without receiving a diagnosis or appropriate treatment.

This needs to change!

Conference Believes:

That students with mental health disorders should have their voices centred in conversations around NUS Scotland mental health policies and campaigns.

That education is required across the sector in the differences between mental wellbeing, ill/poor mental health, and mental health disorders.

That a commitment should be made to reduce the stigma regarding mental health disorders across the sector.

That discrimination, bullying, or oppression of students due to their mental health disorder should not be tolerated.

That education is required across the sector on the appropriate responses to students who present with mental health disorders.

That police intervention when a student is suffering an episode as part of their mental health disorder is damaging and potentially dangerous to their life; and that this practice should be condemned unequivocally.



SRUCSA Leaders

Ayr Campus Officer: Charlotte Mortimer

This is the annual report for the 2019/20 academic year for the Ayr Campus. Being my second and final year as campus officer at Ayr I want to say how much of a pleasure it has been. Representing the students at Ayr has been one of my favourite jobs of all time which I have thoroughly enjoyed, from running campus councils to running events and helping societies its been a great experience.

Events

We had a great start to the year with a busy Freshers. The Freshers Fayre was a great hit with two local clubs bringing a number of inflatable games such as a rodeo bull and a giant darts board. There was also stalls held by our own Agriculture, Rural Business Management, Outdoor Pursuits and Green Technology Societies. We had our regular participants such as RSPB, Dominos, student support and Furys as well as some new faces: Ayrshire Tug of War and The Buff.

We had a number of Freshers parties which were well attended by students from all stages through their studies and well supported by local business offering discounts and freebies.

Later on into November we held our annual Winter Ceilidh with the Glenpark Ceilidh Band with attendees from current students and alumni as well. Both Nick Sparks and Jan Connell attended this to hand out SRUC awards to students.

Societies

We had a number of very active societies on campus this year with Charlotte Bailey (President) and David Anderson (VP) running a number of events for the RMBEES Society including a freshers pub quiz, myself with the Agriculture Society the main events being the trip to Agri Scot and the Christmas night out. Myself and Stefanie (Sports and Activities Officer) taking on the Outdoor Pursuits Society with Stefanie having planned an exciting kayak trip in March which was unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19.

Meetings

There were a number of meetings held throughout the year.

Campus Councils were held in October, November and February on site and in March/April via email due to exam stress and global circumstances. There were two Tea and Talks held one in November and the second in February as well as attending Campus SLCs.

March onwards

Since lockdown started in the UK I have sourced feedback from students on the Ayr campus to find out how they feel about it and how they feel SRUC handled this as well as having regular meetings with Nick Sparks and other staff to relay this information which I will format in a report for future use. I also took on the position as the Barony liaison during the pandemic and sourced the same feedback from the students at the Barony campus, helping organise meetings between staff and students where extra communication was needed.

And Finally

I can't believe how quickly these two years have gone by and I feel so blessed to have been elected for this position twice, for the help and support I have received and the great experiences along the way.



UPCOMING FRESHERS EVENTS 2019

SEP 13	FRESHERS FAYRE 10am til 2pm, UWS Atrium	SEP 17
SEP 18	AGRIC SOCIETY AGM 12-30 (room tbc)	SEP 19
SEP 18	PUB QUIZ 8pm, Harleys	SEP 19
SEP 18	RMBEES PUB QUIZ 6pm, UWS Union	SEP 19
SEP 19	PUB CRAWL 8:30pm, start @UWS Union	SEP 26
SEP 19	BEACH YOGA lunch time (Stefanie Lade)	SEP 26

Contact Ayrcampus officer Charlotte on
ayrcampusofficer@nrc.ac.uk for more info

SRUCSA Leaders

Sports and Activities Officer: Stefanie Lade

Freshers Events

I participated at the Freshers events in Oatridge, Edinburgh and Ayr. For that I prepared friendship bracelet making in the SRUCSA colours. At each campus a few people participated and I got to know some nice people and talked to them. In Edinburgh a student even started up her own weekly Yoga classes following our conversation at the Freshers' Fayre.

Tea and Talk

For the tea and talk I organised three events. The first one I put a lot of effort in and played music in the background bought cake and muffins, tea and coffee and had questions as well as the whole room prepared for it. However as not many people turned up I decided that for the next time I would keep it a little more simple. The second time one person turned up. The third time I organised it, I involved our therapists (we have 3 at the Ayr campus). That day, more than 6 people including staff showed up. Therefore I was planning to do this as a stress relieve every week from that point onwards, however I could not proceed due to the country running into lockdown.

End of Year Ball

Charlotte and I put together a team of 4 people to organise an end of the year grad ball. We had one meeting and asked around for a location to hold it. We had several offers prepared I have calculated the money needed for this as well as organised catering and planning. However due to lockdown this event could not be further proceed.

Kayak Trip

For the Great Glen kayak trip I organised a guide as well as kayaks, people and everything around it including accommodation and partly food. It took a great deal of my time and I worked a lot around it to make it happen. I contacted several kayak providers as well as accommodation and tour guides. However the event could not proceed due to the lockdown.

Ourdoor Pursuits Society

Charlotte started to work on the OPS society a little bit and I organised a few meetings for it. We did start planning on what to do with the society and had some events coming up. However the events that were planned before the lockdown did not have enough participants, as in everyone pulled out due to weather forecasts and then with lockdown we had no time to do anything else.

Sustainability Event in Sheffield

The sustainability events in Sheffield were a great reminder for me that at other universities sustainability is something very important. I have learned a lot about it, at the event I met a guy working for the Food saving hub in Glasgow for Strathclyde university which whom I organised events.

Food Sharing Events

I had three food sharing and saving events that were organised in collaboration with the Strathclyde university a couple of students from our campus turned up for it. It was a really interesting course. I planned to have a big event coming up, however as lock down proceeded, I was unable to do it.

Around the Campus

I participated at the campus councils.

During Lockdown

I started filming work out videos. They took a great deal of time to prepare and as I am unable to do it on my own I have to do them at my friends computer as mine can not process them. I completed one video so far which is a mommy work out. Two further ones are planned one is the work out with plants and the other one is the clear your space, clear your mind challenge.

Stay connected is another challenge and I created a photo for that.

SRUCSA Restructure

SRUCSA has developed in the years since its' creation, over time it has become increasingly clear that the officer and staffing structure was not fit-for-purpose. The part-time officer roles (Campus Officers & Sports and Activities Officer) must be undertaken by a current student, and feedback from officers has consistently been that it is challenging to carry out both studies and work, throughout the academic year. In addition, recruitment and retention of Campus Officers has been patchy with a number of positions remaining untaken or becoming vacant each year.

This project was started by last year's vice-president, Andy Robinson. Andy consulted with students, via campus councils, to explain the challenges and asked for class rep input. At the end of these consultations, the students' preferred options were presented to the SRUCSA Executive at the Annual General Meeting in 2019 where the executive team voted in agreement with the student choice. The preferred option was three regional vice-presidents and a president. The back-up put in place in case this wasn't possible was to only have three sabbatical officers, one per faculty, with the title Co-President.

For me to put this project in place, the remaining documents were to be edited and new ones created such as job descriptions, the SRUCSA constitution, operational plans, procedures and policy. Several conversations were held at the SRUC Board, Academic Board, the relevant Sub-Committees, and Trade Unions. The election process and class representative documents were also updated.

Having another full-time Sabbatical Officer in place of six part-time Campus Officers plus a Sports and Activities Officer will mean that all campuses will be more equally represented by SRUCSA. Some campuses have been harder to represent than other in the past so hopefully they will now receive more adequate help from the local student leader and become more successful.

Elections

2019/20 Elections

Elections took place in March 2019 and the following candidates were elected as SRUCSA Officers for the 2019/20 academic year.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Katie Dubarry</i>	Student Vice-President	29	83%
<i>Andrew Robinson</i>	Edinburgh Campus Officer	7	88%
<i>Charlotte Mortimer</i>	Ayr Campus Officer	19	100%
<i>Stefanie Lade</i>	Sports and Activities Officer	28	88%
<i>Poppy Gough</i>	Women's Liberation Officer	21	100%
<i>Stuart McKenzie</i>	Aberdeen Campus Officer	8	89%

2019/20 Presidential By-Election

A by-election was held in May 2019 for the Student President position, as it had remained vacant, and Hayley Colbert was elected as Student President.

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Hayley Colbert</i>	36	51%
<i>Cameron McCririe</i>	31	44%
<i>Re-Open Nominations</i>	4	5%

2019/20 Campus Officer and Liberation Officer By-Election

By-elections took place for the vacant Campus Officer and Liberation Officer Positions in October 2019. Carla Sangster secured the position of Elmwood campus Officer and Adam Fergie that of Oatridge Campus Officer. All other positions remained vacant.

Elmwood Campus Officer

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Cara Sangster</i>	38	34%
<i>Rebecca D'Arcy</i>	27	24%
<i>Stuart McBride</i>	16	14%
<i>Jorie Ramage</i>	25	22%
<i>Sean Dolan</i>	6	5%

Oatridge Campus Officer

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Adam Fergie</i>	25	81%
<i>Re-Open Nominations</i>	6	19%

2020/21 Elections

The following officers were elected for next academic year, 2020/21, in April 2020.

North Faculty Co-President

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Cara Sangster</i>	43	58%
<i>Michael Kidd</i>	30	41%
<i>Re-Open Nominations</i>	1	1%

Central Faculty Co-President

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Amy McLuckie</i>	27	96%
<i>Re-Open Nominations</i>	2	3%

South & West Faculty Co-President

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Kevin Hamilton</i>	26	93%
<i>Re-Open Nominations</i>	1	7%

Students with Disabilities Officer

<i>Name</i>	<i>No. of Votes</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Hayley Colbert</i>	10	91%
<i>Re-Open Nominations</i>	1	9%

Meet the new team!



Cara Sangster
North Faculty Co-President



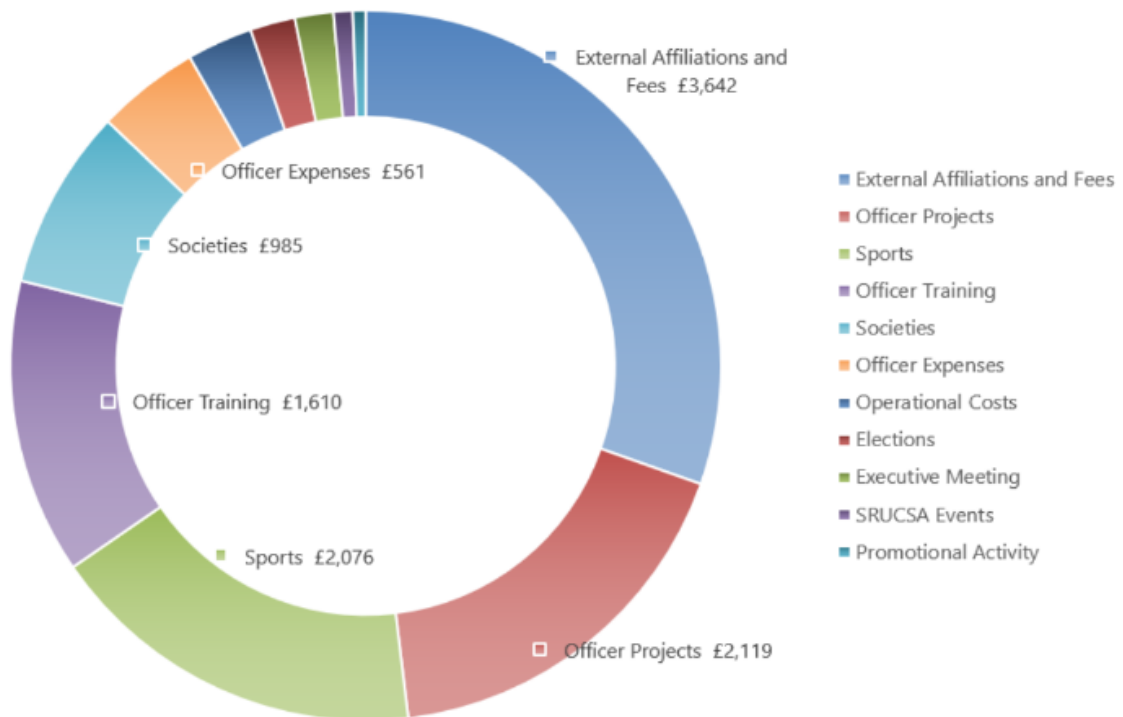
Amy McLuckie
Central Faculty Co-President



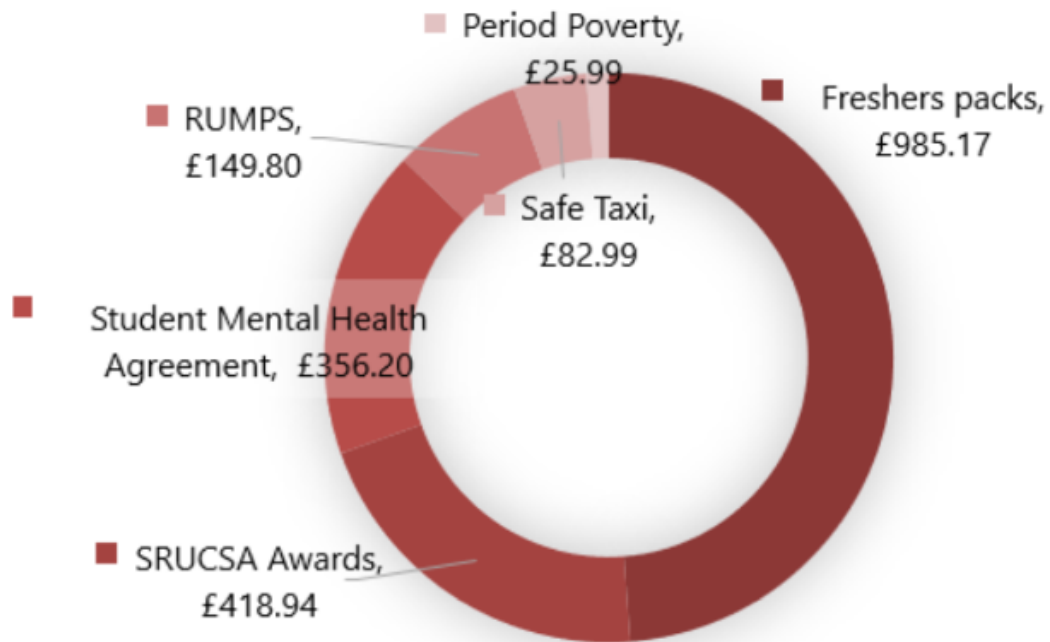
Kevin Hamilton
South & West Faculty
Co-President

Finances

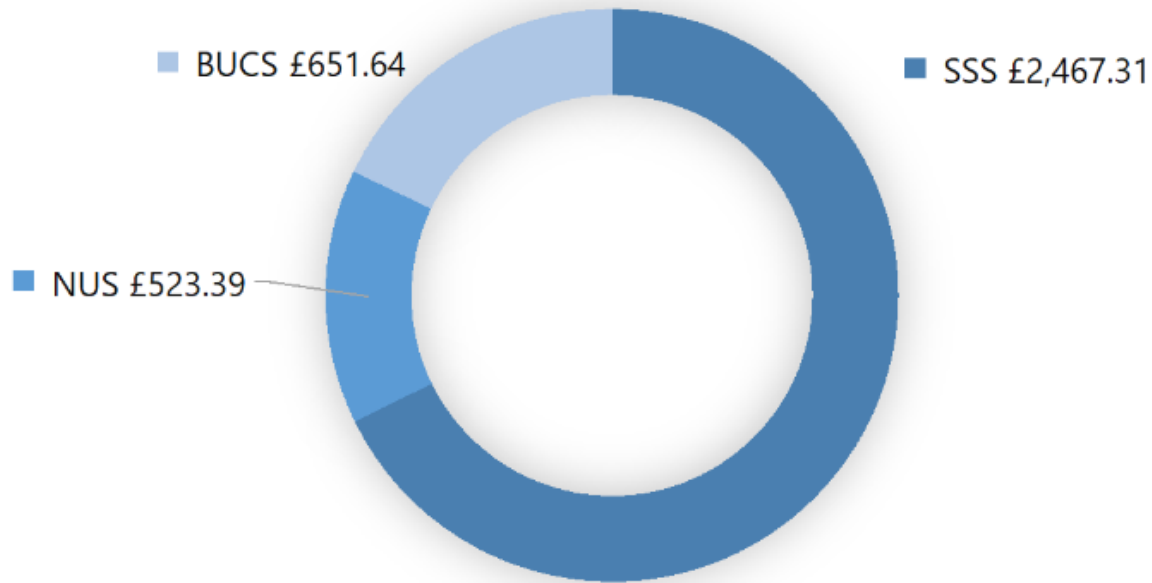
How we spent our money



Officer Projects



Affiliations



BUCS is the **British Universities & Colleges Sport** who provide SRUCSA students with access to sports leagues and event throughout the year.

SSS is **Scottish Student Sport** who provide SRUC students with access to sports events and programmes and provide support in promoting the benefits of sport at SRUC


NUS is the **National Union of Students** who provide SRUC students with training for our sabbatical officers and a national platform where student voices can influence the decision that shape their lives.

Final words

Whilst we're sad to be leaving our roles at SRUCSA, we are glad to have been part of team who have worked so hard to improve the life and experiences of the students here at SRUC. A couple of us are continuing our work at SRUCSA but the rest are either going to complete their studies throughout the years to come or have completed their degree. Together, we have helped students to achieve another year of studies, improve their representation within the organisation and had fun!

To those student's returning we look forward to introducing you to our latest student members and seeing you in the new academic year. Being part of SRUCSA is a rarity and a once in a lifetime chance. Find out how you can get you involved in the students' association and help tackling the issues that affect our student's the most.

Congratulations to those of you who have completed your degrees. We hope to see you again one day to find out where your degree has taken you or where life has led.



SRUC Students' Association
Peter Wilson Building
King's Buildings
West Mains Road
Edinburgh
EH9 3JG

srucsa@sruc.ac.uk
www.srucsa.org.uk