

Minutes of the Graduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) Meeting

Date: 11th March, 2019

Place: Room S2.133, Social Sciences Building

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Attendees:

Staff Representatives:

Alex Karalis Isaac	Deputy Director PGT
Carolyn Andrews	Programmes Manager PGT
Helen Riley	Library Representative
Jeremy Smith	Head of Department
Lucia Ashley	Student Engagement and Exp Co-ord (PG)
Stephanie Reading	Senior Careers Consultant
Bozena Beauclair	Marketing and Communications Manager

Student Representatives:

Sambhav Choudhury	MSc EIFE
Aisha Intesar	MSc Econ
Catherine Ojo	MSc Econ
Pratik Sanghvi	MSc Econ

Apologies:

Robin Naylor	Director of Studies
Kelly Taylor	Head of Administration, T&L
Eugene Malthouse	MSc EIFE

1. Membership of Committee
 - The new chair and secretary were introduced in the meeting as committee members take responsibility on a rolling basis
2. Matters Arising
 - Administration Team and Teaching Staff are working to ensure that the assessments are conducted in a systematic manner in case of any changes due to the COVID-19 situation.
 - There has been a discussion about exams being conducted through Tabula/On-line. However, this is subject to approval from the University Authorities.
 - Whatever the circumstances be, students will be updated via email and through the website.
3. Library and IT Services
 - Ms. Helen Riley encourages students to send her emails regarding book requests so that they can be ordered in time for the dissertation.
 - A reminder email will be sent to the students in this regard. Moreover, there are many online resources that can be accessed by students while on the Easter Break. This shall also be mentioned in the email.
 - As far as the COVID-19 status is concerned, there is no news from the library and it will function as usual. Emails will be sent in case of any changes. (This was correct at the time of the meeting, but quickly superseded by physical University closure).
4. Skills, Development and Careers
 - There have been students who have accessed this facility for interview purposes. Ms Stephanie Reading points out to the fact that there is possibility of more students getting involved. The student representatives cite the possibility of low use attributable to most students having jobs from their previous work experience.
 - Career Support will be provided to students irrespective of the COVID situation. In extreme cases, this additional support will be conducted through Skype sessions.
 - Improving the Video Interview Training Facility. There is a provision for this on the website. The committee discusses on how to re-position this option on the website so that students make note of it.
5. Student Engagement and Support
 - Ms. Bozena Beauclair speaks about the new initiative taken by the department to create a bigger Alumni connect. This has been a topic of discussion in the last 3 meetings of the Communications and Marketing Team.
 - Furthermore, members of the SSLC staff (one or two representatives) are welcome to the forthcoming meetings. This would help in giving more ideas so as to build this network. This Alumni Engagement programme is available to all students.

6. Teaching and Learning

Proposal for a new MSc degree in Economics and Data Science

- There was discussion about introducing the new MSc Degree in Data Science and Economics in 2021. The overall response from the student body was positive. Given that data science is in high demand in the labour market, the response is expected to be good.
- Prof. Jeremy Smith mentioned on clarifying in the Degree Proposal that Econometrics B would be a requisite.

7. Assessment and Feedback

- There was a hint of dissatisfaction with the EC993: Public Policy in Developing Countries based on the reviews collected by the student representatives. According to the reviews, the lecturer did not seem very confident with the material she was teaching.
- This is not yet been reflected in the module evaluation. Appropriate checks will be taken by the department in case this is seen on the module evaluation page.
- Students mentioning that when potential dissertation supervisors are approached, a few of them are asking for formal 1-page dissertation proposals.
- The academic representatives recognized this was not ideal. Students were asked to check if the issue was limited to one or two supervisors or more widespread. If many supervisors were requesting proposals, then the Department would write to all of them explaining that this should not be necessary at this stage.

8. Dissertation

- If need be, supervisor meetings will be held online.

9. Other Business

- As a follow up on the previous meeting's agenda, the committee discussed the response on volunteering to record videos on her/his experiences at Warwick.