

GRADUATE STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the of SSLC Meeting held on 5th November 2021

Attendees:

Student Representatives: Ritojeet Basu (Chair), Gitanjali Pillai (Secretary), Yara Aziz, Roudy Dirani, Rahul Porwal, James Hicks, Chris Marshall, Chengyue Xi

Staff Representatives: Jeremy Smith, Lory Barile, Atisha Ghosh, Elizabeth Jones, Alexander Karalis Isaac, Lucia Ashley.

Apologies: Karen Jackson, Stephanie Redding

Election of Chair and Secretary from Student Members of the Committee:

Ritojeet Basu and Gitanjali Pillai were elected as the Chair and Secretary of the committee respectively.

Resources (Library/IT):

Some students had issues regarding the library working hours (open only till 10pm). It was revealed that since there was refurbishment going on that week it was 10pm and that next week onwards it will be open till 12am.

Skills Development and Careers:

This section included discussion regarding the Careers in Economics Event and how repeated emails are sent first to inform and then as reminders, so more students participate and take advantage of it.

Additionally, recommendations were made for the SSLC representatives to also convey these messages and reminders effectively to the rest of the cohort.

Chengyue was also asked to keep the Chinese students who only use WeChat informed about the same.

Minutes of the Previous SSLC:

- 1) A major topic of discussion in the previous SSLC's minutes was the issue between online and offline teaching.

To this, Alexander said that nothing can be said for sure since the department does not have much control over what stance the university is going to take with respect to social distancing norms etc.

Jeremy added that from term 2, the university has decided to do away with social distancing and so the department will be conducting face to face classes where feasible. Also, since there

will be a bid for spaces, priority has been decided to be given to 3rd year UG and PG students followed by 2nd year and 1st year UG students.

Additionally, the department still plans to continue with a blended teaching and learning approach with just an increase in the proportion of face-to-face classes.

- 2) Last year's SSLC mentioned that having a dedicated SSLC email would have been greatly beneficial to connect with the cohort.

Any emails to the cohort have to be sent to Lucia with the PG Office CC-ed on them. If these emails are urgent, mentioning urgent makes sure that even if Lucia isn't available someone else from the team will be able to forward it to the cohort.

Matters Arising:

Same as above.

Teaching and Learning:

- 1) Concerns were raised regarding the lack of clarity with regards to which modules are to be covered for each week (specifically for Microeconomics B).

Lory mentioned that using Echo 360 is an efficient way to tackle this issue and know which synchronous lecture is to be done when. Additionally, it was mentioned that some students might have missed the message, but effort will be made to effectively communicate this and improve on this front.

In general, if there is something that is unclear or that needs to be focused on, approaching the lecturers was pointed out as the most effective strategy.

Assessment and Feedback:

- 1) Having more face-to-face lectures was talked about but this time in the context of getting to know professors so this could help with building a rapport with our future possible dissertation supervisor.

For this, making use of Advice and feedback hours which are terribly underutilized was suggested. Also, it was pointed out that the department has 80 professors of which we come in direct contact with only 20 of them so if getting to know our dissertation supervisor was the aim, then face-to-face lectures wasn't the most efficient way to go about it; instead researching what each of them is involved in and contacting them separately would be more effective.

Going into feedback hours in a group was also highlighted as being more effective as against going individually.

- 2) The week's microeconomics paper and seminar were clashing for a few groups. Resolution: The test was then shifted to Monday to avoid this.

Student Engagement and Support:

- 1) When the issue of non-creation of study groups earlier on in the course was raised, the SSLC was also asked to advertise the existence of study groups available on moodle for questions about any of the module content that is being taught, or to discuss research ideas for dissertations etc. To add to this, an email was sent by the department to the cohort as a reminder that study groups have been created in moodle and that students are welcome to meet in person or online with their groups.¹
- 2) Creation of a moodle notice board that collates all emails being sent for that particular module was also given consideration.

Dissertation:

No comments.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:

No comments