

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

held on Wednesday 06 March 2019 at 14:00
in Room S2.133, Social Science Building

Attendees:

Staff Representatives:	Naylor, Robin Karalis Isaac, Alex Riley, Helen Andrews, Carolyn Wyld, Andrea Redding, Stephanie Smith, Jeremy Akanimo Enime	Director of Studies Deputy Director of PGT Programmes Library Representative PTL Manager Postgraduate Secretary Senior Careers Consultant Head of Department SU representative
Student Representatives	Bollati, Edoardo Guerrieri D'Amati, Andrea (Secretary) Zayat, Aline (Chair) Stafford-Johnson, Natalie He, Qi	MSc Econ MSc Econ MSc Econ MSc BES (Econ track) MSc EIFE
Apologies	Perkins, Catherine (Secretary) Chen, Binjie Taylor, Kelly	 MSc Econ MSc EIFE Quality Assurance Manager

1. Review of Minutes & Actions meeting 16 January 2019

The minutes of the last meeting on 16 January 2019 were found to be true and accurate, apart from a small correction from the Library Representative pointing out that Library refurbishment will happen during the summer vacation rather than in term 3.

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to discuss.

3. Learning Resources (Library/IT)

Library:

- Helen Riley reminded of extra available funding for new books, and of her availability over the next terms for dissertation help

4. Careers and Skills

Careers:

- Stephanie Redding reported that interview workshops and appointments are well used by students, who in turns do not have any complaint about the service at this stage; also reminded that central career service will keep working during summer vacation

5. Teaching and Learning

Spring module evaluation:

- Department has shown the results of the Autumn module evaluation
- There was a lower turnout than usual
 - Department will open the next evaluation slightly earlier to get as much feedback as possible
- Students felt report is too long and probably uninformative, and suggested Department could highlight the most important facts at the beginning of the report, so that all students could be provided with the most relevant facts right away, and then interested people could keep reading with the details.
- Evidence of Department responses are appreciated by students and should be kept in report

6. Student Engagement and Support

Notes from SSLC strategy session of 19th February:

- Feedback from Joint Masters
 - It was suggested to the SSLC to invite representatives from the Science track of BES so that they could provide feedback on the interaction between Departments in liaison with the representative from the Economics track of BES
 - The committee agreed on the proposal and will make arrangements
- Improving the feedback loop
 - It was suggested that a non-anonymous online platform could be introduced for students to give feedback on the course, mediated by course representatives. In this way, anonymity would still be preserved and feedback would be improved
 - Department appreciated the idea, and will look into this

7. Assessment and Feedback

External examiner reports:

- Department showed reports from external examiners after the November exam board
- Reports were found not to be particularly detailed

- Department will ask for more detailed reports in the future as the same examiners will be present on the next exam board

EC901:

- Department suggested that an online mcq assessment accounting for 10% of the EC901 module (10% for EC9011 and 10% for EC9012) could be introduced to relieve some of the stress for students
 - Student representatives were worried that an online test might not be reflective of the true preparation of a student
 - Department replied by saying that such a test will be useful to evaluate weaknesses as to improve revision lectures and seminars
 - Representatives will get back to the Department with more feedback from students

EC984/EC989:

- BES students enquired about the reason why there is a discrepancy in the assessments for BES and for Economics students
 - Department pointed out it is mainly an historical reason as the BES course was more focused on courseworks rather than on examinations.

8. Dissertation

Dissertation:

- Students pointed out that the list of supervisor was released late with respect to the deadline to choose a supervisor, and asked whether it would be possible to extend such deadline to account for this
 - Department was aware of this, and agreed to move the deadline to Friday 29th March

9. Organisation of the course

Nothing to discuss.

10. Gender Equality and Diversity

Nothing to discuss.

11. AOB

Feedback from Students Union:

- SU representative enquired about any improvements that could be made

- Department suggested to give to students training on the nature of communications between students and staff (e.g. how to write email), even though it is more of a problem for undergraduates than postgraduates

12. Next meeting

The next GSSLC meeting is scheduled on Wednesday 1 May 2019, 13.00-14.00 in room S2.133.