

## GRADUATE STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

For the Post Graduate Taught Staff-Student Liaison Committee Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup>  
December 2016 at 3.00 pm in room S2.133 (Meeting Room).

**Staff representatives:** Mini Bhogal (maternity cover for Carolyn Andrews); Anna Preston; Helen Riley; Sue Rattigan; Jeremy Smith; Nick Zammit.

**Student representatives:** Jordan Barnard (MSc Econ); Gilda Romano (MSc Econ); Symbat Tassybayeva (MSc Econ); Canberk Yalcin (MSc Econ); Beatrice Falga (MSc EIFE); Mohammed Homoud (MSc EIFE); Matthew Chennells (MSc BES).

**Chairman:** Canberk Yalcin. **Secretary:** Gilda Romano.

**Missing staff representatives:** Sascha Becker; Robin Naylor; Kelly Taylor.

### 1. Attendance of the members taken

### 2. Review of the last meeting minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and the actions agreed by the Department were implemented accordingly.

### 3. Library issues

None to report. In case of any issues the students should contact the representatives who will email Helen Riley directly.

Mrs Riley reminds the students that she will be available on Tuesday mornings in term time between 10 am and 12 noon in room S0.95 in the Economics Department. With no need to make an appointment, students can ask for help in finding books, articles and data.

### 4. Computing Issues

- a. Issue: Some students tend to overuse the printers in the MSc Study Room.  
Action: Giving the students a limited number of printing credits and charging if they exceed would not be a fair solution. The representatives should instead tell the students not to abuse the free printing service.
- b. Issue: Some students asked for the possibility of downloading the lecture captures.  
Action: The lectures are protected by university copyright and the Department doesn't have voice in the matter.
- c. Issue: Many students asked for the possibility of being provided with the lecture captures of the optional modules too.  
Action: The lecturers of the modules of the second term have the right to choose whether to provide with the captures or not.

### 5. Curriculum Organization, Design and Content

- a. Issue: The Department should consider providing MSc students with a mid-term reading week.  
Action: The timetable is not long enough to allow for a reading week since ten weeks are only sufficient to get through the material.
- b. Issue: The second part of the Macroeconomics module should focus more on the mathematical derivation of the models rather than on historical notions and debates,

otherwise students will have difficulties in approaching more technical modules such as Monetary Economics and Topics in Applied Macro.

- c. Issue: A few students have experienced difficulties with the teaching methods of Econometrics B.

Action: The number of the students reporting the problem is not representative of the wider student body and the claim appear unfounded from students who are not working hard enough.

## 6. Curriculum Development

No issues to report.

## 7. Teaching and Learning

- a. Issue: It would be useful to have for every core module an additional mid-term module evaluation questionnaire like the one which circulated for Microeconomics, especially because the lecturers of the core modules change between the first and second part of the modules.

Action: The Department can't oblige the lecturers to circulate a mid-term module evaluation questionnaire. However, the lecturers will be informed about this request as the feedback could be useful for them as well. The questionnaires should focus on specific questions in order to avoid general answers from students which would not be of use.

- b. Issue: A mid-term module evaluation questionnaire should be taken into consideration for the optional modules too.

Action: Given the considerably smaller size of the optional modules' classes, the students can discuss any relevant feedback directly with the lecturer.

## 8. Methods of Examination and Assessment

- b. Issue: The students have asked for additional resource material to prepare the second part of the Macroeconomics module.

Action: Michael has already agreed to issue sample material and guidelines for the exam over Christmas.

## 9. Student Support and Guidance

No issue to report.

## 10. Any other business

- a. Issue: The two-hole punch binder in the MSc Study Room does not have page aligner.

Action: The Department will look into providing this.

- b. Issue: The MSc Common Room should be provided with a card reader because students from WBS have access to the room at the moment.

Action: The Department has already ordered a card reader.

- c. Issue: The coffee machine in the MSc Common Room is often out of order since it needs to be refilled frequently.

Action: The students can't be given the keys of the coffee machine to refill it themselves, but the Department has already ordered a new coffee machine which will be linked to an external source of water, in order to avoid the problem of having to refill it.

- d. Issue: The Department should email the students to inform them about the existence of a Facebook page for the MSc, which is an important way of communication between students.

Action: The Department will send out an email to this effect.

- e. Issue: The students would appreciate if the Department could host a party during the second term.  
Action: A party will be organized in May in the Copper Room.
- f. Issue: Damages for a total amount of 2000£ were caused during the Christmas Party. The Department asks the students to keep a politer behaviour during the next social events.  
Action: GSSLC members will take note of any info fellow students are willing to provide.
- g. Issue: The Department would like to inform the students that CCTV cameras will be installed in the foyer of the Social Science building due to security reasons.  
Action: GSSLC members will let other students know of this as best as they can.