

Physics Department, Warwick University
Meeting of the SSLC on 16th November 2015
Action Point Document

I.T. issues

None

Building issues

- A sanitary bin in each toilet cubicle in the department was requested.
ACTION POINT: We will raise the issue with the team overseeing cleaning contracts for the toilets.

First year issues

- Some students asked whether there could be more help with the material on the worksheets for PX146.
RESPONSE: The worksheets are the students' first introduction to self-learning – in total they are worth only 6 CATS (the smallest unit of credit allowed by the university). Students can ask personal tutors for help with understanding.

Second year issues

- Some students thought that the gap between PX150 and PX277 was too large. Some students reported finding parts of the assignments ambiguous. Some felt that the assignments were marked more 'harshly' than those for PX150.
ACTION POINT: We will review future assignments before release.
- Some students requested more assessed work/examples classes in the second year.
RESPONSE: There is assessed coursework associated with all the second year core modules. Students are encouraged to ask for help and guidance about all modules from their personal tutors at the weekly tutorials.

Students need to take increasing responsibility for their studies as they move through the years. There is close weekly monitoring of everything in the first year, close monitoring of core modules and lab work in the second year and close monitoring of the project and Lab/Communicating Science modules in the third and fourth years.

Third year issues

- Some students thought that the assessments for PX376 could be more equally spread throughout Term 1.
ACTION POINT: We will discuss this with the director of the writing

- programme. We will look at the possibility of releasing topics for all assignments earlier and moving some assignment deadlines earlier.*
- Some students thought that they would benefit from more guidance for their PX428 report writing.
ACTION POINT: The module website contains guidance on writing the research paper. See http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/physics/current/teach/module_home/px428/assess. This page also contains a Word template. The HoD will discuss this matter with the head of this lab, and we will review again at the end of the current presentation of this module.
 - There are some minor errors in the undergraduate handbook: some of the weeks, in which modules run, need checking.
RESPONSE: We have since checked the regulations pages of the undergraduate handbook and made minor corrections to the timings of three modules. We work hard to keep the course handbook accurate. If anyone spots an inconsistency please let Michael know immediately. There is no need to wait until SSLC meetings to get corrections made.

Fourth year issues

- The LectureCapture facility was welcomed, but more use of it for third and fourth year modules was requested.
ACTION POINT: We will encourage staff in all years to consider using lecture capture.
- Some students reported being unable to access some module websites on Moodle.
RESPONSE: All students have access to the website of the current presentation of all physics modules, whether they are on Sitebuilder or Moodle. If students were registered on a previous presentation of a module, they will additionally have access to the pages from that presentation (if they were hosted on Moodle). Some module websites have this academic migrated for the first time from Sitebuilder to Moodle. In such cases, the new Moodle website may not be populated until later this.
- Some students reported having a rather unequal distribution of modules across Terms 1 and 2.
*RESPONSE: The current distribution of fourth year modules is as even as possible:
Weeks 1-5: PX425, PX431, PX436, PX445, PX437
Weeks 6-10: PX425, PX431, PX436, PX445, PX420
Weeks 15-19: PX408, PX416, PX432, PX438, PX444
Weeks 20-24: PX416, PX432, PX435, PX430
We do not prevent students from taking 3rd year modules in the fourth year, but 3rd year modules are not scheduled to fit into the fourth year timetable.*

Maths/Physics issues

None