Physics Department
Warwick University

Action points arising from the meeting of the Student Staff Liaison Committee on 12th November 2019

I.T. matters

- Not all students can connect to all CSC servers.
  Correct, some (in fact most) computing hardware is available only to students working in particular research areas/groups. If particular projects are being starved of necessary computing resources then please do raise this via supervisors in the first instance, or failing that, with the project coordinator and SCRTP director.

Library matters

None

Building matters

- Could there be more chairs and tables left on the Concourse for study?
  The Science Concourse is not within Physics' control. We note, and support, the extensive use made of this space by Physics students and will pass this request on to the relevant space owners.

First year matters

First year representatives reported on a questionnaire that they had sent around to first year students.

We thank the first year representatives for creating, distributing and collating the responses to this questionnaire. Many interesting points are raised – some of these have been previously raised and discussed at SSLC and others are new. Once we have sight of the full set of student replies, the Department will consider the issues raised and provide a more detailed response.

Second year matters

- Some students would like more clarity on which parts of the PX267 Hamiltonian Mechanics material is examinable.
  We will pass this on to the module lecturer – unless told otherwise the assumption should be that all lectured material is examinable.
- Some students would like a little more time to complete each examples class problem in PX276.
  We will pass this on to the module lecturer.
- One student interpreted their tutor as intimating that PX279 The Solar System and perhaps other first and second year astronomy modules are primarily about absorbing facts, whereas third and fourth year astronomy modules are more conceptual. What is the departmental view on this?
  This is not the Department's view. We have discussed this with the tutor concerned,

who thinks he may have been misunderstood. In hierarchical subjects, such as physics and astronomy, the study of concepts and examples of phenomena illustrating these concepts are introduced together.

- The helpfulness of demonstrators in the electronics lab as part of PX271 is quite variable.
  We note that the initial comment at SSLC was to praise the helpfulness of the demonstrators. Comments relating to individual demonstrators can be passed on to the academic module leader.

Third year matters

- Solutions, feedback and marks are given to all PX384 online assessments as soon as they are submitted. No solutions, feedback or marks are given to any PX382 online assessments. Some students queried the rationale behind this.
  The marks for the PX382 online tests have been released as have those for PX384. We leave it to the discretion of the lecturer whether full answers and detailed breakdowns of marks are released.

Fourth year matters

None

Mathematics matters

- Can answers be posted to Sets and Numbers and Analysis problem sheets?
  We will raise this with Mathematics.
- Some students think that a module on constructing proofs would be useful, along the lines of ST116 Mathematical Techniques (only available to Statistics students).
  We do not believe that an introductory module is needed. The first year marks show that, in the round, Maths/Physics students do as well as the Statistics students and that Maths/Phys students do not need additional support in this area. We do give Maths/Physics students additional support for mathematical techniques (through the worksheets, through the Mechanics modules) which support the differential equations module.