

Minutes of the Student and Staff Liaison Committee Meeting

Department of Statistics, Warwick

11:00-11:40am in C1.06 on 29th June 2015

Students: Pieralberto Guarniero (Chair), Christiane Görden (Secretary), Apostolis Gkatzionis (4th year representative), Giacomo Zanella (3rd year representative), Cyril Chimisov (1st year representative)

Staff members: Dr. Bärbel Finkenstädt (Director of Postgraduate Studies), Eleanor Ingram (Postgraduate Support Officer), Paula Matthews (Department Administrator)

Agenda item 1: Workspace in Senate House

Issue Update on Agenda item 1 of the previous two meetings (March 2015, October 2014).

Discussion The SSLC invited Paula Matthews to provide an update on the workspace situation.

The Department has been asked to vacate the currently owned space in Senate House by the end of this academic year. In compensation, it has been allocated ten rooms on the second floor of the Ramphal building on Library Road. As the Department grows further it will eventually fill the entire second floor. The space in Ramphal will be permanent until the new Mathematical Sciences extension has been completed.

The new space will be used by everybody who currently occupies an office or desk in Senate House and the Statistics staff members in Computer Science and five volunteering PhD students (to be found). Paula will organise a tour of the area during the summer vacation. Facilities in Ramphal include a common room area with open plan kitchen. White and blackboards will be installed as necessary and moves will commence mid-September.

Agreed procedure PhD students will be informed about a visit to Ramphal via the usual mailinglists, volunteers will be recruited likewise. The SSLC will organise the latter.

Agenda item 2: TeachHigher and pay rates

Issue TeachHigher, a system to align teaching and pay rates across departments within the university, has recently caused high controversy. Though the

current version has officially been disbanded¹, there is still uncertainty about future workload and pay rates within the Department.

Discussion Pieralberto gave a short summary of the internal YRM and the SU meeting on TeachHigher, held on June 2nd and 4th, respectively. Bärbel reported that the Board of Graduate Studies had not issued any additional information. So far, the Department is not involved with the implementation process of any follow-up programme of TeachHigher and is not aware of any changes to the current implementation of teaching in Statistics over the next year.

The SSLC enquired whether pay rates for teaching would be adjusted across departments. So far, there is only a slight change for PhD students in Statistics. Invigilation will now be paid at the lower ‘demonstrating’ rate² of roughly £12. The previously higher rate has been a mistake which went unnoticed. The SSLC also remarks that the marking rate is not increased with inflation.

Agreed procedure Information about any schemes similar to TeachHigher and about university-wide changes to the pay rates will be communicated as fast as possible. PhD students will be informed about the new pay rates via the usual mailinglist. Bärbel will look into the marking rate matter.

¹ http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/insite/news/intnews2/th_update

² <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/humanresources/payroll/salscalescurrent/ptt/>