

PGR (MRes/PhD) GRADUATE STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Graduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee Meeting held on 27th November 2018, 1-2pm in room S2.133.

MINUTES

Present

Student Reps: Alejandra Martinez (Secretary), Antonio Schiavone (Chair), Katherine Brooke, Omiros Kouvasan, Srinjoy Sen, Kathryn Nicholson.

Staff: Jeremy Smith, Robin Naylor, Maryanne Heafey, Natalie Deven, Manuel Bagues, Helen Riley, Stephanie Redding, Michele Underwood.

Apologies

Bhaskar Dutta , Sharun Mukand, Kelly Taylor, Cora Neumaan.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting, which took place 24th October were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Annual Report 2017-18

The annual report 17-18 was discussed. Important things to highlight on this report:

-The courses in R were successful during term 3.

-Issues of miscommunication and overlap/incoherence of topics on module EC9B6. This module to be replaced by two new modules but one was cancelled. Keep this issue under review.

-This year there was less waiting for the time table release.

-Pre-math course feedback from the first-year students Kathryn Nicholson and Katherine Brooke was positive.

3. Matters arising

None

4. Teaching and learning

None

5. Library Issues

5.1. Maryanne Heafey updated the issue concerning the MRes students time for lending books and said she will confirm this issue by mail as soon as she receives information from the library. (The issue is the length of time that MRes students can keep books. PhD students have preferential membership in that they are allowed to keep books for longer).

5.2. Helen Riley asked for any feedback on library services and library facilities. She pointed out that students can email her directly with the list of books that are not in the library or if there are not enough copies of a particular book.

5.3. Regarding the PG-Hub study spaces availabilities, Katherine Brooke raised the issue that sometimes is hard to find spaces.

6. Computing issues

Kathryn Nicholson wanted to know if the server could allow doing interactive jobs. Jeremy Smith, replied that the setup of the server is such that all jobs can be done effectively. Maryanne agreed to investigate outside the meeting whether limited interactivity might be possible and report back.

7. Assessment and Feedback

On the PTES report, Maryanne Heafey highlighted this year's higher satisfaction level compared to last year. Response rate of year two students was 80% and 50% for year one MRes students respectively. Overall satisfaction at 100% and higher in all categories but two (Assessment and Dissertation).

8. Student Support and Guidance

8.1. On Student Careers & Skills events: Stephanie Redding representing the Careers and Skills asked for feedback on the last career and skills events held in term one. Kathryn Nicholson and Katherine Brooke gave positive feedback on the event, but also said that the Business and Consultant event was not advertised to the MRes or Phd students in the economics department. Student representatives asked if there should be a list of the companies attending each event available online. Stephanie replied this depends on the funding and availability of the companies but encouraged students to email her with their interests on the companies they think should be invited to career events.

8.2. On PhD lockers: Maryanne Heafey reported that lockers can be made available for PhD students if required. PhD students should email Maryanne if they need additional storage space in their office.

8.3. On Scholarships: Maryanne Heafey highlighted the upcoming meeting for the scholarship applications for the second year MRes students. This will be held on Monday 5th December in the economics department.

8.4. Michele Underwood (Research Development Manager in Student Careers & Skills), talked about available programmes for PhD students. Specifically, the personalized programme for postgrad students and the future participation of research students as tutors on the programme. She also highlighted some upcoming events such as the coffee workshops, and the three workshops that are going to be held during summer term of next year. Other discussed issues were the poster competition and the 3-minute thesis competition. Further information on the Research Student Skills Programme is available here: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/skills/pgr>

9. Diversity and Inclusion

None

10. Any other business

Alejandra Martinez on feedback of this term courses. She raises the concern on students in applied classes not having enough preparation on empirical identification. Srinjoy Sen also acknowledge this was also a common problem for last year 2nd year Mres students.