

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

For the Graduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee Meeting held on
30 April 2019

MINUTES

Present:

Student Reps: Cora Neumann (secretary), Kathryn Nicholson, Srinjoy Sen, Omiros Kouavas.
Staff: Robin Naylor, Kelly Taylor, Maryanne Heafey, Natalie Deven, Stephanie Redding (Careers)

Apologies: Alejandra Martinez, Sharun Mukand, Jeremy Smith, Katherine Brooke, Manuel Bagues, Helen Riley, Antonio Schiavonne (Chair),

1. Minutes of the meeting 5 March 2019

Minutes were approved.

2. Matters Arising

Student representative Omiros Kouavas brought up a request from students: they wish to be included in circulation of emails about changes in department faculty to MRes and PhD students to supervisor picking.

Professor Robin Naylor added that students should also have access to other communication, e.g. the staff newsletter.

3. Teaching and Learning

3.1 Mres students Year 2 option module event

Has now been organised and will take place 23rd May 3:30-5:30

Advice from current second year students should be done informally. Student representative Kathryn Nicholson asked if there could be a syllabus/reading list provided at the session, which staff representative Maryanne agreed would be provided.

3.2 EC9AA Projects

Long list of projects sent out the afternoon of the 30th of April (around 30); students will need to pick their project by end of the term.

Student representative Kathryn Nicholson asked if we are restricted to the list, to which staff representative Maryanne Heafey replied that students could have their own projects but need a supervisor at Warwick.

Further guidance is on the webpage; teachers will upload content to the website before class.

4. Library Issues

Professor Robin Naylor asked if all resources were available that students need.

Student representative Kathryn Nicholson asked for Prof. Rogers Farmer's book; there are copies held in PGR office that students can borrow. Student representative Kathryn Nicholson asked if we could have information on what books are available, e.g. including books that someone "leaves" behind.

Professor Robin Naylor answers as follows "good idea to have a student initiative through which a collection of textbooks would start".

5. Computing Issues

Many students have recently moved offices, once they are all settled, the computers will be wiped and rebuilt.

Ideally students would provide a list of softwares needed.

Chair Antonio Schiavonne, raised an issue about access to the *Pyatt* server, IT is looking into it.

6. Assessment and Feedback

6.1 Changes in the next years

The university is undertaking a review of assessments and will change a few things. Relevant for PG students: late submission penalty will be increased from 3% to 5% per working day.

There will be a new requirement for invigilators that they need to receive some form of certification since there have been issues with lack of diligence in the past.

6.2 PTES and PRES

MRes complete the PTES, PhD the PRES.

Response rates for PRES has been low so students should boost it since it's a really useful avenue of feedback (closes 17th May). Additionally, a good response rate is a measure of engagement with the students.

Student representative Cora Neumann raised the point of GTA training, since she had to miss hers because she was in a lecture. Going forward, it would be great to have more scheduled or have them scheduled outside the students' timetabled classes.

Professor Robin Naylor raised the point of perhaps getting training from within the department since this would teach GTAs the skills relevant to Economics.

There will be a change in seminar structure – demo lecture where problems are just solved and regular seminars will alternate.

7. Student Support and Guidance

None

8. Careers & Skills

3 Minute Thesis Competition coming up, students need to submit their proposals by 13th May (need to submit a video).

11th June - there will be another careers workshop for both academic and non-academic jobs.

There might be another event about non-academic careers after for PhD students, but need enough attendance to make it worthwhile.

9. Diversity and Inclusion

First Women in Economics event happened on April 30th.

10. Other businesses

10.1 Scholarships

There will be an increase in the scholarship next year starting 30th September 2019; following that there will be an annual increase in accordance with ESRC.

10.2 Mental Health Study

A Harvard grad student is studying mental health among PhD students and wants to increase their sample to include European departments. Professor Manuel Bagues has agreed for the department to participate; it would not start until the fall.

10.3 Information Assessment

This year there have been issues with first and second year MRes students not knowing the type of assessment or the actual assessment early enough; going forward, there will be more diligence.

10.4 Review

We are in the 5th cohort of MRes/PhD now, so the department is doing a review of the programme. Students will eventually be consulted; for now, the first step is this year's "Away Day", where the focus will be on the MRes curriculum.

Professor Robin Naylor introduced the idea of doing something similar with students; this could be done in an hour.

Next meeting: October 2019