

Minutes MRes/PhD SSLC meeting 07/11/25

Attendance:

Staff: Pablo Beker, Anant Sudarshan, Claudia Rei, Jackie Hanes, Natalie Deven, Chau Ho

Student Reps: Jonathan Jarjis (MRes 1), Hayden Harris (MRes 2), Litianqi Fan (PhD 1), Shantanu Chadha (PhD 1), Damiano Raimondo (PhD 2), Lily Shevchenko (PhD 3), Andrea D'Amati Guerrieri (PhD 4), Immanuel Feld (PhD 4)

1. Chair's Welcome and apologies
No apologies
2. Appointment of Chair/Secretary
Chair: Hayden Harris
Secretary: Jonathan Jarjis
3. Minutes of previous meeting:
Approved
4. Action points from previous meeting
N/A
5. IT and Resources
 - Discussion on whether the process for PhD students to purchase data can be streamlined or just be made faster in anyway. However, it seems this may be difficult as the university sets out a long process for purchase authorisation.
6. Teaching and learning
 - A member raises the point that often in undergraduate seminars (first year in particular). It is said other staff should be asked if they had similar problems so the department can know if this is a widespread issue. It seems Faculty of Arts Building rooms are the main culprit.
 - It is asked whether new whiteboards can be purchased for S2.79. It is mentioned that the whiteboard currently in the room has issues with regards to rubbing writing out, while it is also quite small currently does not suffice when writing solutions for complex problems.

Post-meeting:

- Upon inspection a decision is made that the current whiteboard is indeed suitable as long as it is cleaned properly. Due to a lack of space in S2.79, it is decided that a second board may not be suitable. Use of the visualiser is recommended. The visualiser is a downwards facing camera on the computer desk. The video captured can be displayed on the TVs.

7. Sports

- It is asked whether postgraduate football/volleyball sessions can be reintroduced in some way. On the whole, it is unclear who should be organising their return. The motivation of cutting costs is also playing a role here.

Post-meeting:

- It is confirmed that sports activities for postgraduate students and staff will be cut for this year due to financial reasons and low interest from MSc students.

8. PhD offices

- Despite week 5 having been reached, some PhD offices still don't have computers working properly. It seems the process to get IT support is very slow. Some furniture, including chairs and blinds, in these rooms is very old and needed cleaning by the PhD students. It seems the issue is going to be raised with the necessary people.

9. Student Visas

- Student visas cost in the thousands and students often aren't aware of this. Therefore, it is raised that there should be better communication to international students about the magnitude and due dates of these fees so that they can begin to save.

10. AMES (Advanced Microeconomics Early State) Seminar

- A question is raised regarding who is exactly organising these seminars.

11. Conference travel funding

- It is discussed on who a student in their final year of the PhD can access funds in order to travel to conferences (as normally this isn't allowed). It is reiterated that if one believes a conference is truly important, they should talk to their supervisor or research groups to vouch for them as such people will understand the importance if it is truly important to attend the conference.

12. Other notices

- Upcoming postgraduate Christmas social: people should sign up soon.
- Upcoming scholarship applications: Chancellor's scholarship and China scholarship.
- Perhaps upload MRes induction slides somewhere so people always have access.