

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

For the Graduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee Meeting held on
15th January 2020

MINUTES

Attendants: Julie Robinson (Library Scholarly Communications Manager) , Jeremy Smith, Robin Naylor, Manuel Bagues, Sharun Mukand, Maryanne Heafey, Lucia Ashley, Keremcan Gey, Nick Sholz, Cora Neumann, Natalie Deven , Eduardo Tolva, Antonio Schiavone

Apologies: Helen Riley

1. Minutes of the meeting held 27th November 2019
Approved as an accurate record.
2. Matters Arising
Cleaning personnel are coming in to vacuum offices regularly. Maryanne to check with Colin that this is happening. Cleaning wipes will also be provided in the MRes offices.
3. Teaching and Learning
Payment to GTAs
PhD students raised an opinion about the GTA wage being low compared to the other universities. Jeremy Smith indicated that:
 - While the hourly rate paid to GTAs is set by the university and cannot be influenced by the department, the department sets a high number of hours for the GTAs;
 - There are also non-monetary benefits to teaching, like improving the cv and career development;
 - Sharun Mukand pointed out that they would like to pay more and there is value in improving pay in attracting more competitive applicants for the PhD programme.

Module Evaluation

MRes Second year students had a high participation rate, first year students had lower around 60%. Overall rate was around 70%.

The report highlight the responses that are below the departmental average, specifically for EC9AA (2019 Summer) and EC9A1 (2019-2020 Fall Term).

4. Library Issues
Helen Riley is the Economics Academic Support librarian; this role is subject specific and is more involved with reference support and other area specific inquiries.

Julie Robinson is from general communications division, this role could be more helpful with picking which journals to publish in, dissemination of research, metric measurement and training in such activities

- Their role includes analysing research data and WRAP analytics
- There will be a session on evaluating research on Skillforge
- Also other training in publishing books, further guidance on funding grants and applications, data management training
- One-to-one appointments are also available for consultation
- Cora suggested circulating this information via an email to all MRes/PhD students
- If there is interest from the students, a group session (6-12 students) could be held

5. Computing Issues

Maryanne reported that there was now a new tab on the current students page as "IT issues" to make it easier for students to report IT problems and for these to be kept track of.

6. Assessment and Feedback

First year exams marks are to be released this week. Maryanne indicated that any student who is concerned with their results should contact her for guidance.

7. Student Support and Guidance

There is a newsletter twice a term for MRes/PhD people, the administrative would appreciate any feedback on these, especially on whether they are read or not. It was agreed that including information from library in the newsletter as well would be useful

The student representatives indicated these newsletters are received positively, and it was pointed out that conciseness is a key factor in them being read.

8. Student Engagement and Voice

Card readers are appreciated in terms of security by the members.

- The installation of card readers is not finalized yet: Locks will also be fitted on all doors without card readers so that any entry into the economics offices will require card access;
- This arrangement might take a while as the department waits for the approval of the Social Sciences administrator; possibly installed by the end of term.

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

No issues to discuss

10. Any Other Business

Newspapers placed in MRes/PhD common room: the committee assessed whether they are read or not.

- It costs 5 pound every day to deliver these newspapers: is it worth it to keep them around?

- The initial response from the student representatives was that it is not read by most.

Kelly Taylor asks students to appear in 3 minute videos about “Respect volunteering”

- These videos will appear on TVs on UG PG rooms and the content will be on respecting people and their backgrounds

The administration requested a meeting with PhD students, ideally one person per cohort, to discuss the dissatisfaction observed in the PRES survey based both on survey response rate, and on results itself

- It was stated that the dissatisfied students also might not even fill out the survey

11. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11 March, 1-2pm.