

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

For the Graduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee Meeting held on
23 October 2019

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Cora Neumann; Keremcan Gey; Edoardo Tolva; Nick Scholz; Robin Naylor; Maryanne Heafey; Natalie Deven; Helen Riley.

Apologies:

Election of Chair and Secretary from among student members

Cora Neumann was elected student Chair of GSSLC and, Kerem Gey was elected Secretary of the Committee.

Previous Issues/Annual Report

- 1) It was observed that administrative issues had precedence over student-related issues during past GSSLC meetings.

Response: In future meetings, student issues will be moved up on the agenda.

- 2) Students did not think that they are kept in the loop for staff changes.

Response: It is stated that the information regarding staff issues are included in staff newsletter, which is already being distributed amongst MRes/PhD students.

- 3) Pyatt Computer Issues

Response: Discussed under Computing Issues (below).

- 4) Summer Course for on applied Econometrics is being planned

Matters Arising

1. One of the MRes work rooms have most of their computers dysfunctional.

Response: The room needs to be fitted with necessary ports to connect these computers. It is still work in progress.

2. It was suggested that the pre-sessional Math course could include more measure theory contents. It was suggested that the pre-sessional Math course could have a mock math test at the end to be able to measure student understanding and give feedback.

Action: Maryanne Heafey to convey these suggestions/ requests to the faculty who deliver the pre-sessional Math course.

3. 2nd year MRes modules have difficulties accessing Moodle pages. It was suggested that all 2nd year students be enrolled to all courses pre-emptively in order to prevent the access to the pages from altered unexpectedly.

Action: Maryanne will follow up with IT to establish what the problem is.

Teaching and Learning

No issues were discussed.

Library Issues

Helen Riley announced that the library is willing to purchase additional copies of textbooks that are used in graduate courses. Students should email Helen when they are having problems accessing the textbooks they need.

Computing Issues

There had been some problems with Pyatt server over the summer, which had affected PhD students. The systems administrator is now working on an update to the server and the server will be moving to the university central server room. This will prevent most power outages which have been an issue in the past. A temporary staff member is to be recruited to assist with the improvements. The changes are expected to be completed by the end of November.

Assessment and Feedback

Maryanne Heafey presented the PRES action plan, which was returned to the Doctoral College (DC) in September. In addition to the actions included in the plan, students had suggested the following actions in response to the PRES results: to have a collection of all conferences and workshops attended by students on the department website; to have more information regarding internships available to students. Note: taking up an internship position, will require a student to take Temporary Withdrawal and this will affect the visa status of international students. Other points to note are listed below

- 1) The department will provide discretionary funding to attend summer schools. These applications will be considered in a case by case basis and will be deducted from the conference fund the student has.
- 2) According to PRES, economics students are less confident about submitting their thesis on time.
- 3) Module EC9AA will be reviewed this year, for implementation (of any required changes) in 2020-2021.

Action: Maryanne Heafey to add information regarding internships to the current student web page and also information on conferences attended. Information regarding past extensions will also be added to the website. The departments expectation is 100% submission rate by the end of year 4.

Student Support and Guidance

Guidance on Brexit is available on the University web page. The long duration and change of type of study in the PhD programme might require more tailored advice on the matter. Students should always access the services of the [immigration team](#) for the correct advice.

Action: A link to the latest available information will be circulated to the students by Maryanne.

Diversity and Inclusion

Arun Advani is Co-Chair of Discover Economics campaign. This is at an early stage however, in the next year or so there may be roles for PhD students to get involved (please contact Arun or Maryanne for further information).

Warwick Scholar (a Widening Participation) programme was launched. There may be roles for PhD students to get involved. Further information can be found on department website.

Next meeting to take place: 27th November, 2019.