

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

Minutes of the GSSLC Meeting held on

2nd December 2020

Present: Keremcan Gey (Chair), Andrea Guerrieri D'Amati (Secretary), Immanuel Feld, Omiros Kouvas, Nick Scholz, Jeremy Smith, Jennifer Smith, Pablo Beker, Lucia Ashley, Helen Riley

Apologies: Stephanie Redding, Srinjoy Sen, Cora Neumann

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 29th April 2020 (attached)

GTA contracts: some students still had differences in their teaching contracts. Jeremy will check whether there had been any mistakes and follow up on this.

2. Matters Arising

EC9A2: There have been some changes in the structure of the module, and as a result most of the background knowledge needed will be taught in the second term. This, on top of the difficult situation MRes students are already facing due to the pandemic, has created a great deal of pressure on them. Jeremy was not aware of such change, and will look into it to avoid a similar situation for next cohorts.

Online teaching: some professors were not adequately prepared for delivering lectures online (e.g. not being able to write formulas or proof on slides or on similar devices during the lecture). Department has already sent instructions to the faculty at the beginning of the term, but will send additional ones to prepare for next term.

PhD conference: Some of the PhD students were confused about how the selecting committee is structured. Department will make the selection process clearer (e.g. holding elections for rotating members).

Engagement with GSSLC: Chair could send an email to all MRes/PhD students to ask for inputs or to circulate the minutes as soon as they are completed.

3. Teaching and Learning

Position of the Department on teaching in Term 2: the first two weeks of the term will be online for all students, but the University is still waiting for government guidance on returning students.

4. Resources (Library/IT)

Helen Riley presented some of the services available to students over the term break, and in particular those for students who are self-isolating/not able to come to campus (e.g. scanning some book chapters, postal borrowing from the Library). She also encouraged students to contact her anytime for guidance on borrowings or for book purchase requests.

5. Assessment and Feedback

Nothing to discuss.

6. Student Support and Guidance

PhD meetings: some suggestions were brought forward by PhD students to organise meetings with research groups in a more informal way, with possibly some faculty members participating in them to stimulate discussions. These online meetings should serve as a “substitute” for face-to-face ones that usually happened in the kitchen or in common rooms. Pablo and Manuel will follow up on this with research groups, though it might be difficult to organise depending on the size of the group. Pablo has requested students to send a proposal for the informal online meetings with research groups.

7. Student Engagement and Voice

PRES results: there will be a meeting to discuss the results of the PRES, though these are from two years ago and might not reflect current situation.

8. Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

Culture Survey: Micaela Redoano presented the results of a survey about working culture in the Department in another meeting, Department will circulate a formal report of this with students soon.

9. Any other business

Nothing to discuss.