

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

Minutes of the GSSLC Meeting held on

3rd November 2021

Present: Andrea Guerrieri D'Amati, Adam Di Lizia, Immanuel Feld, Nick Scholz, Jennifer Smith, Pablo Beker, Lucia Ashley, Helen Riley, Karen Jackson, Cora Neumann, Elizabeth Jones

1. Membership of Committee and election of Chair/Secretary

Election of chair and secretary. Andrea Guerrieri D'Amati will remain as chair and Adam Di Lizia will become the new secretary.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2021/Annual Report

Nothing to discuss.

3. Resources/Library

Library spaces: Karen informed the committee about updates to the library. The refurbishment over the summer is now complete. A few things remain left to be finished but the library is fully open. It will reopen until midnight in a couple of weeks. Karen confirmed that from January, the library will return to being open 24/7. In terms of resources the team is trying to get e-books where they can and trying to ensure things can be placed online. In terms of Covid restrictions there are zero social distancing requirements. Students are advised to wear masks when moving around but can sit together for group work.

Inter-library loans: Karen talked about the commonly cited resource issues and that while slow, there is an annual process for the library to potentially obtain any new resources that might be required by students. She added that the library has joined a new consortium "Get it for me" which is an inter-library loan system. It allows much easier access to certain resources not in the library. She emphasised to tell the library and talk to colleagues about what you need as they might be able to resolve the issue.

Wolfson/PG Hub access: Natalie asked whether the first year MRes Students can access Wolfson, and Karen and Adam confirmed that the issue should be resolved but Adam will email if issues arise. Andrea asked whether rooms in the postgrad hub might be booked for group study sessions, which was confirmed. Karen reminded the committee to email her if any issues arise in the meantime.

4. Matters Arising

Computers in Workroom/PhD offices: Andrea and Adam pointed out that in the MRes workroom some of the computers do not work. Some PhD students are also disappointed as S0.78 has only 3 working computers and they would like this to be fixed. Some students are waiting for screens. Natalie explained Colin and the team are systematically going around the MRes/PhD spaces to replace computers. Elizabeth explained that the IT were team overstretched with a general supply issue and that it is not an issue just facing students.

5. Teaching and Learning

Nothing to discuss.

6. PRES Results

Natalie explained to the committee that the PRES is a survey for PHD students that happens every second year. A PRES results summary sheet has been distributed for student information. Looking at results over the past 3 years, some of the sections seem to be having a continual fall in satisfaction: research culture, supervision, resources, support. The department is aware of this issue, and it has been brought up in the staff meeting. The report has also been sent to the research committee asking the research group to come up with some ideas to tackle these problems. For PhD students a survey has been sent out- with good response -to deal with office space issues. Natalie explained that each issue will be addressed but, in the meantime, to go to Natalie, Manuel, Pablo or the SSLC.

7. Assessment and feedback

Nothing to discuss.

8. Student Engagement and Support

Nothing to discuss.

9. Equality, Diversity inclusivity

Nothing to discuss.

10. Any other business

PG photoshoot: Charlotte in the marketing team enquired regarding a PG photoshoot. The department wants better photos of more current students. She asked for more MRes/Phd students to sign up.