

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 20th January 2021

Present: Andrea Guerrieri D'Amati (Secretary), Immanuel Feld, Omiros Kouvas, Nick Scholz, Cora Neumann, Pablo Beker, Helen Riley, Jeremy Smith, Srinjoy Sen.

Apologies: Jennifer Smith, Stephanie Redding, Keremcan Gey (Chair).

1. Declarations of interest

Nothing to discuss.

2. Resources (Library/IT)

Library services: Helen presented to the committee the library services that are available during the new lockdown (e.g. click and collect, free UK postal loans), and also reminded her availability to discuss book purchases.

3. Skills Development and Careers

Nothing to discuss.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2020 (attached)

Nothing to discuss.

5. Matters Arising

Access to the department: starting from Monday 25th, it will not be possible to access the building without prior permission from Jeremy, which can be given depending on the case (e.g. critical work, use of specific teaching equipment). This will be reviewed around mid-February.

Use of terminals: the use of Bloomberg might be considered as critical work, so that Jeremy might be able to give permission to use it, although it might be possible to access terminals remotely as it happened during the first lockdown.

6. Teaching and Learning

Feedback from MRes students on online lectures: students from first year of MRes have found 100% online lectures to be very disruptive for group work, and in particular considering that they are not able to use study spaces in the department anymore. The faculty is aware of this, and although there is not much room for improving participation given the situation, students might recreate their groupwork experience by meeting before/after the seminar to

discuss problem sets. As per second year MRes students, they had the same issue of participation, but they believe that there is not much that can be done to improve this, apart from trying to improve communication among each cohort.

Quality of online delivery: some of the professors are not used to the technicalities of online teaching, like setting a Teams/Zoom meeting, which could potentially lower the quality of the lecture. The department has already given training to the faculty about how to use teaching softwares but will try to make additional training available for them.

7. Assessment and Feedback

Markings: Department is trying to keep the 20-days turnaround for assessing coursework but there might be delays as some members of staff have to homeschool their children.

Term 3 exams: all the exams scheduled for term 3 will still be online.

8. Student Engagement and Support

Department reminded PhD students reps about the availability of virtual common rooms.

9. Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity

Support scheme: The University support scheme was sent by the Department to all students.

Culture in the department survey: results of the survey will be sent soon by the department.

10. Any other business

Nothing to discuss

Next meeting: Wednesday, 17th March 2021