

GRADUATE STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the of SSLC Meeting held on 21st October 2022

Attendees:

Student Representatives: Aslesha Pathapati (Chair), Tanay Kondiparthi (Secretary), Hadiya Yousouf (Secretary), Mahima Kapoor, Olivia Zhao, Almaz Brinshnov,

Staff Representatives: Atisha Ghosh, Caroline Elliot, Alexander Karalis Isaac, Lucia Ashley, Caroline Proctor.

Apologies: Lory Barile, Flint Robbin, Jackie Hanes, Sanya Agarwal.

Election of Chair and Secretary from Student Members of the Committee:

Aslesha Pathapati, Tanay Kondiparthi and Hadiya Yousouf, self-nominated for the positions of Chair and Secretary and were later elected as Chair and Secretaries respectively in a post-meeting vote.

Resources (Library/IT):

A short mention about the department's internal IT cell, and positive feedback regarding the pre-sessional library database session. For the future, suggested to inform IT and Library issues to Lucia Ashley, to include Jacking Hanes and Caroline Proctor in SSLC meetings.

Skills Development and Careers:

Atisha introduces various career fairs, alumni lecture opportunities, the Bi-Weekly Careers bulletin, and the MSc Economics Careers Teams page. Recommendations were made for the SSLC representatives to effectively communicate these messages and events to the rest of the cohort.

Discussion on the effectiveness of email reminders and the MS teams' space for communicating Careers information. SSLC representatives are encouraged to use WhatsApp, WeChat, and Instagram to share career opportunities with the rest of the cohort informally. The department reiterated the use of email as the formal method of communicating Skills Development and Careers information to students. Prior to the next meeting, the SSLC representatives were advised to survey various methods of gathering student feedback, such as in-person drop-in sessions, WhatsApp/WeChat, and so on.

Teaching and Learning:

Issue raised by Hadiya regarding Module Selection and Career Opportunities on the Psychology side of the BES Econ track i.e lack of Psychology and Behavioural Sciences Career Opportunities communicated to BES (Econ Track) students by the Psychology Department. Economics Department conveyed reporting this issue to the Psychology Department.

Pre-Sessional Feedback:

SSLC representatives suggested completely online or offline pre-sessional for the following academic year, due to international travel, IT, and setting up issues. Almaz suggested that previous years' pre-sessional results be published to manage student stress and expectations. Caroline stated that the hybrid pre-sessional implementation this year was due to government regulations, and that the department will take student feedback and government regulations into account for the following academic year. Concerning the previous year's pre-sessional results, Alex emphasised the department's policy of only providing them at the module level and discussed the resources available to help students deal with exam stress.

Modules and Module Selection Feedback:

The Module Selection Fair was beneficial, according to SSLC representatives. Tanay and Mahima reported, students are still stuck on the notion that "B" Core Options are only for PhD aspirants, leading to under-selection compared to previous years' numbers. Alex inquired the SSLC about the main determinants in students' module selection decisions, SSLC representatives reported module selection was primarily driven by academic considerations and then Job prospects/Interests. Department suggested discussing with the "B" module leaders if PhD aspirants are the intended audience for these courses.

Student Engagement and Support:

Lucia requested SSLC representatives support in acquiring student opinion on the Christmas dinner date.

Dissertation:

No comments.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity:

No comments.

