

GRADUATE STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Meeting held on Wednesday 5 May 2021

Attendees

Staff representatives:

Jennifer Smith	Director of Studies
Lory Barile	Director PGT programmes
Alex Karalis Isaac	Deputy Director PGT programmes (Academic Convenor)
Lucia Ashley	Student Engagement and Experience Coordinator
Helen Riley	Library Representative
Stephanie Redding	Senior Careers Consultant
Michela Redoano	Associate Professor of Economics
Hannah Pinset	Warwick Student Union

Student Representatives:

James Clarke	MSc Econ (Chair)
Arushi Nautiyal	MSc EIFE (Secretary)
Sushil Mathew	MSc Econ
Ziyan Ma	MSc EIFE
Ethan McQuaid	MSc BES (Econ Track)

Apologies

Jeremy Smith	Head of Department
Kashish Kaur	MSc Econ
Haoran Wang	MSc Econ

1. Declarations of interest

- No conflict of interest

2. Resources (Library/IT)

- **James**- No complaints from the students- consistent emails to students from Helen providing updates frequently so that has been really helpful
- **Helen**- extra services that library was offering during the lockdown are continuing- can come to the library and borrow books but still operating click and collect and free postal loan and free scan book chapters (to be continued for the foreseeable future over the summer)- study spaces may be stretched during this revision time- opened spaces in the University House Learning Grid and Science Concourse- can check services and spaces on Covid-19 Library services on the website- can also check MyWarwick app to figure out how the spaces are going and if there are any left
- DataStream and Eikon are provided by the library- DataStream to be discontinued in September; Helen is free to talk to students on Teams about doubts on DataStream and Eikon Terminal if anyone is stuck;

3. Skills Development and Careers

- **James**: few students asked for if there can be more career sessions after exams
- **Stephanie**: Careers in Economics webinar this afternoon- was planned to be the last one this Academic Year but since MSc students will be present for the summer term hence Stephanie will take this interest back to the careers team and decide on what future events can be held during the summer term; Further, work opportunities and virtual careers fair can be accessed through the link:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/careers/events/summeropportunity>

Some face to face career opportunities will be offered in application review appointments in the Senate House from end of May

- **Sushil**- students are interested in meeting past research assistant students or research students from other universities. James mentioned that students would be interested in these opportunities after the Summer exams

Action- Stephanie to take this feedback back to the Careers team

Action – Lory fed back to Atisha Ghosh who has arranged a meeting Thursday 01 July with former MSc and current PhD students to discuss alternative paths into research oriented careers.

- **Lory** confirmed if these career session dates could be set keeping in mind the key dates of masters' students in terms of submission of dissertation and all assessments linked to dissertation

Action: Lory to provide Stephanie with details on these submissions through email

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2021

- James- SSLC has encouraged students to do the mock exams on the AEP

5. Matters Arising

- No concerns

6. Teaching and Learning

- **James**- all modules are running at-least 1 revision lecture which is useful as it gives students the chance to ask questions and clear their doubts before the exams
- **Lory**- asked the SSLC for feedback on the Study Buddy scheme as undergraduate (1st year) were more engaged compared to the Master's students; **James** mentioned that students had already formed group within the cohort whom they revised with hence these sessions might not have been that successful; **Sushil** suggested that these sessions could be more helpful if they were held in Term 1 or at the start of Pre-Sessional Math & Stats course.

7. Assessment and Feedback

- **MSc Module evaluation summary 2020-21 Autumn**

- **James**- Term 1 summary: responses more positive than previous years which shows departments doing well to make it better for the students to make it better; concerns: EC9D3 where overall student satisfaction was lower (3.5 out of 5) compared to the other modules (over 4/5); **Sushil** agreed that department put a lot of effort to make this work- some challenges were that students did not know what to expect for the module as there were no past papers to refer to hence could not form expectations; **Arushi** suggested that maybe adding more technical details during Pre-sessional Maths & Stats could help students deal with B variants technical details more
- **James**: Term 2 summary- overall incredibly positive feedback; **Concerns**: student engagement for EC910 (Econometrics B) Term 2 was really low and EC984 (Experimental Economics) where engagement was low as well; Interactive elements like quizzes were successful in encouraging engagement for other modules so these could be incorporated into these as well; **Ethan**- EC984 experimental lecturer asked the students to turn camera off and to not ask questions until the end or specific designated part so students found it less interactive; **Ziyan**- within EC910, students faced difficulty in understanding the accent of the lecturer and there was some inconsistency with recap material; **Lory**- not possible to change the accent but since the material is mostly mathematical, it might be useful for the students to use Econometrics textbooks as additional materials to supplement their understanding
- **James**- some students mentioned that they could not study content before the lecture due to delays in uploading the material- could encourage lecturers to upload more consistently
- **James**- one student suggested in Module Evaluation summary if Econometrics projects (EC902, EC910) could be moved up by few weeks to give students more time – move presentation up by a few weeks; **Lory**- can speak with the module leader and see if they can move the presentation a week earlier; **Alex**- suggested these meetings need to be supervised and the lecturer who takes these meetings is also marking exams hence the timetabling on the academic

side needs to be taken into consideration; Further, student would have undertaken less time-series material; **Sushi** supports Lory's point on needing time to develop the project idea;

Action: Lory to take the feedback to the lecturers;

8. Student Engagement and Support

- **MSc Virtual Social event (Summer term)**

- **Lucia-** Originally want to try something different from quiz- booked library appointment to learn about Virtual Escape Room- breakout groups are tough to do hence need the assistance of students; need to decide on some theme, e.g. Space or Harry Potter; Else could do a photo quiz;
- **Sushil-** some students would like to meet lecturers and each other in person- if there is an opportunity for such sessions to happen in Summer; **Alex-** not aware if university has any policy on this yet but generally university is more conservative about socialising and meeting on campus hence would need to check with university and be very careful; supervision for dissertations online worked really well last year so shouldn't be a problem this year; **Lory** agrees with Alex; Right now not allowed to organise meetings with more than 25-30 people hence cannot arrange an event. **Jennifer:** personal view- would encourage personal meetings as soon as possible but only once allowed; **James-** could encourage informal meeting online throughout the term;

9. Dissertation

- **James-** 90% of students were satisfied with quality of the material (up from 85% last year so there is a clear improvement); Some comments: lecturers were really helpful, students liked hearing from the external speakers hence should continue; Concern: would only refer to the material in Term 3 when the dissertation starts hence could consider having some classes next term;

10. Organisation of the Course

- No comments

11. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

- No comments

12. Any other business

- **SSLC Annual Report**

- **James-** due 12 July 2021- purpose of the report is to make sure that SSLC is working effectively and SSLC can highlight any unresolved issue;
- **Jennifer** commented that SSLC was really helpful this year from the department's point of view;
- **Ethan** confirm if the form needs to be filled it together/ individually confirmed; Hannah commented that it's a collaboratively filled and it is the responsibility of the Chair to make sure that it is filled on time; Useful document for the SU and the next year's SSLC;

- **Hannah**- currently got nominations open for Student Union Awards- staff can nominate students; Student can nominate staff for this academic year's Transformation Awards; Further, there are some more extra awards- awards are more about quality- not quantity; Mid May Friday is the deadline for the Awards Nominations; Union is working on the report called 'Voice of Students' to understand how course reps program works for the students;