

The SSLC Annual Report is used in a variety of ways including:

- Helping the incoming SSLC as a handover document
- Informing the SU & University on how to improve Academic Reps as a whole (findings are published in August and available on the SU Website)
- Helping develop new resources & solutions to better support Course Reps
- Informing the SU & University on how better to raise non-departmental issues to the right places
- Finding similar issues that are being raised across departments and working with the University to develop solutions (findings are published in August and available on the SU Website)
- Promoting the successes within SSLCs during Term 1 and including examples in the SSLC Handbooks to help the next generation of Course Reps

It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that a SSLC Annual Report is completed, in consultation with student and staff members of the Committee by the deadline, even if the Committee has not had its last meeting of the year by that date.

Please send this report to [sslc@warwicksu.com](mailto:sslc@warwicksu.com)

Submission Deadline for 2019/2020: 17<sup>th</sup> July – 1pm

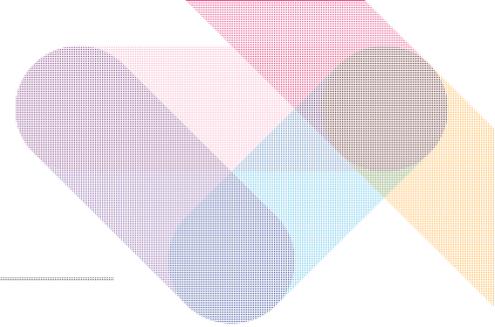
1. Your Student-Staff Liaison Committee	
What is the name of your SSLC? (i.e. Chemistry)	Department of Economics (Postgraduate Taught)
Which courses are covered by this SSLC? (please include course codes which can be obtained by your Academic Convenor)	MSc Economics MSc Economics and International Financial Economics MSc Behavioural and Economic Science

Which levels are represented by your SSLC? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>
Postgraduate Taught

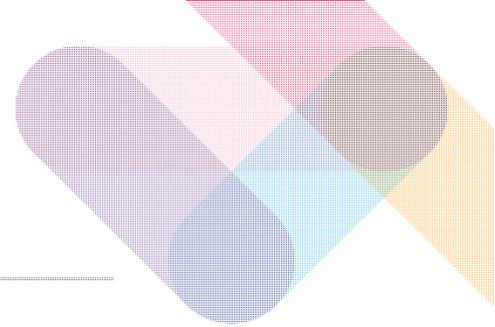
2. Membership 2019/2020		
	Name	
Chair	Sambhav Choudhury	<i>n.b. the Chair <u>must</u> be a student</i>
Secretary	Catherine Ojo	<i>n.b. the Secretary <u>must</u> be a student</i>
Academic Convenor	Alexander Karalis Isaac	

Number of staff members	8
Number of student members	7

Please indicate who, out of the following, attended SSLC meetings this year:		
	Invited to attend? <i>(Delete as applicable)</i>	Attended at least one SSLC?
SU representative	Yes	Yes
Subject Librarian	Yes	Yes
Careers Advisor	Yes	Yes
Technical and Learning Support	Yes	Yes
<i>Please indicate here if there were any other attendees:</i>	Yes, there were.	
<i>Additional comments:</i>	They were Bozena Beauclair (Marketing and Communications Manager) and Claire Gerard (Communications Manager)	



3. Meetings	
How many times has the SSLC met during this academic year? <i>(If there were fewer than four, please indicate why)</i>	The SSLC has had 5 meetings till now. The dates of the meetings are as follows – 23 October; 14 November 2019; 15 January 2020; 11 March 2020; 29 April 2020.
Did the meetings feel student-led? If no, please indicate why	All the meetings were student led. In fact, there was a smooth flow of feedback and opinion among the staff and student representatives. This made the student representatives comfortable to express their opinion and voice their problems without any reservations.
Were all minutes from meetings submitted to all members? If not, why?	All the minutes were handed over to the members on time. The Agenda and the Minutes of the previous meeting were sent a day before to all the SSLC members so all parties could have a look at and prepare for the next meeting.
4. Your year as representatives	
<p><b>Please list your SSLC’s achievements and other positives that have come out from this academic year</b></p>	<p>SSLC representative achievements and other positives that have come out of this academic year consist of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The 2019-20 PG Economics SSLC proposed the formation of a platform to ease communication between the faculty and students and therefore, this led to creating a WhatsApp group with the SSLC members and all the students in the department. This helped the SSLC in directly communicating any important news and updates with the entire department and helped in addressing mass grievances. Moreover, considering a large group of students from China and the corresponding constraints, we created a similar WeChat group.</li> <li>2. The organization and functioning of the MSc Study Rooms was also deliberated with the department. The existing regulations regarding hot food and drinks were made clear to the students using these rooms.</li> <li>3. The SSLC also provided its suggestions with respect to the proposal for an additional MSc program on Health Economics, and Data Science respectively.</li> <li>4. Considering the unprecedented circumstances created by COVID-19, the SSLC provided its full support to students by addressing individual grievances and concerns. We also coordinated with Professor Jennifer Smith in designing the structure of the Alternative Exams that were conducted in May 2020.</li> <li>5. The SSLC also provided its useful suggestions on a similar approach being taken for Microeconomics and Macroeconomics, as Econometrics, that leads to students having a choice between a theoretical or a more applied version of these two courses respectively</li> <li>6. The SSLC closely cooperated with the department and administration in developing the course and teaching</li> </ol>



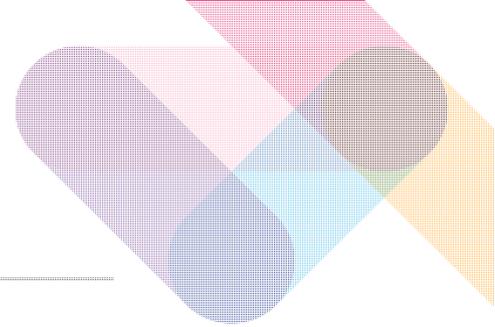
	structure for Academic Year 2020-21 which led to a mixture of online and in-person teaching.
<p><b>Are there any unresolved issues or ongoing matters discussed this year in need of follow up or continuation into the next year's SSLC? What steps are being taken to ensure this? (A copy of this report, containing detail of unresolved issues, will be made available to the SSLC next year, so please do ensure you include all detail of unresolved issues so that they can be followed-up)</b></p>	<p>Unresolved issues or ongoing matters discussed that need to be discussed this year or followed up into the next year's SSLC; and steps taken to resolve this are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The decision on classes being held online or in-person is conditional on the situation, and hence, it may have to be revised with the changing situation of Coronavirus situation, if any.</li> <li>2. Even though the SSLC has deliberated and discussed the structure of examinations and assessments, the SSLC elected for 2020-21 will have to be updated with the teaching style and therefore, take suggestions from the new batch of students, and make necessary amendments in the same.</li> </ol>

## 5. Communication

Which of the following methods have been used to gather material for meetings? If used, please can you rate them according to effectiveness from 1 to 5 (5 being very effective, 1 being not effective at all).

Please delete as applicable:		Score
SSLC notice board	Yes / No	2
Social media	Yes / No	4.5
Surveys	Yes / No	3
Moodle	Yes / No	4

<p>What methods of communication did you find to be the most effective? What didn't work?</p>	<p>The SSLC team predominantly used WhatsApp and WeChat (for Chinese students) as the main method of communication to Economics students. We had around 150 students on the WhatsApp group chat and 149 on the WeChat group. We found that reiterating key information from emails and presenting feedback from the SSLC meetings via the group chat reached more students than the occasional mass emails. This does not write off the need for emails as some students still read their emails very carefully.</p> <p>The main WhatsApp Economics group chat was managed by the SSLC student representatives and communication was one way, to all other students. Any form of complaint was sent directly to the SSLC members rather than on the group chat itself. This arrangement did not prevent students from expressing their concerns as SSLC members often received student concerns directly.</p>
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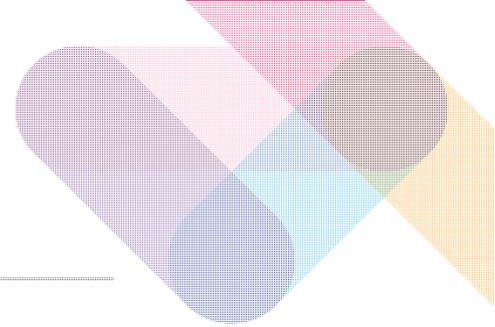
	The SSLC notice board was not very effective as it was introduced quite late during the year, hence not much was shared on the notice board. However, I believe that information on the notice board could have reached many students as quite a substantial amount of Economics students visited the MSc common room during the week. This could be an effective method of communication for the next session
What other ways did you effectively communicate with students?	Another method of communication that worked was word of mouth. The SSLC student representatives often asked the Economics students how they found the modules that were being offered, their lectures and other student concerns and passed the responses from students on to the Economics department.
Were you provided access to your department's communication channels? (i.e. having emails send out, departmental noticeboards)	We did not have access to send emails out to students, but we had access to departmental motive boards.
How did you feedback the successes of the SSLC to your cohort?	Via Social media platforms such as WhatsApp
How well do you feel students engaged with your work as course representatives?	The students engagement with the work of the course representatives was good.
What, if any, communications support from the SU would have helped you better represent your peers?	-

### 5. Students' Union

Do you feel that the SU has effectively communicated with your Course Rep?	The SU did communicate to the course reps via mass email occasionally but there was no close form of contact between the SU and the course reps.
How could the SU improve the communication with Course Reps?	-
What events/activities would you like the SU to put on for Course Reps?	Organise an activity (e.g. Pizza night) for only MSc Course reps rather than a combined Undergraduate and Postgraduate activity.
How do you think the SU can help better raise issues that cannot be solved in SSLCs?	By communicating directly to various departments
Did all of your Course Reps attend SU Training this year?	Not all the course reps. Only 2 course reps attended the SU training.
Are there any skills that you needed that was not covered in training (rep training as well as SSLC Chair/Sec training)?	-
Do you feel supported as an SSLC by the SU Education Team? Explain your answer.	I feel that the SU recognises the course reps from various departments, but a lot more could be done to involve course reps from the MSc departments
Any other comments about the SU	-

### 6. Follow-up from last year's SSLC Annual Report

Were you able to obtain a copy of the previous year's SSLC annual report?	<b>Yes</b>
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Did you manage to address any of your predecessor's unresolved issues?	<b>Yes</b>
Are there any continuing issues from last year that still need resolving?	<b>No</b>

## 7. Data Presented to SSLC by Academic Convenor

Did the SSLC receive the External Examiners' report for the course(s) represented by the SSLC? **Yes**

If no, why not?

Did the SSLC receive NSS Scores and/or module feedback data for the course(s) represented by the SSLC? **Yes**

If no, why not?