

Minutes of the Graduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee (SSLC) Meeting

held on Wednesday 16 January 2019 at 13:00 in Room S1.136, Social Science Building

Attendees:

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| Staff Representatives: | Naylor, Robin | Director of Studies |
| | Riley, Helen | Library Representative |
| | Andrews, Carolyn | PTL Manager |
| | Wyld, Andrea | Postgraduate Secretary |
| | Redding, Stephanie | Senior Careers Consultant |
| | Smith, Jeremy | Head of Department |
| Student Representatives | Bollati, Edoardo | MSc Econ |
| | Guerrieri D'Amati, Andrea (Secretary) | MSc Econ |
| | Perkins, Catherine (Secretary) | MSc Econ |
| | Zayat, Aline (Chair) | MSc Econ |
| | Stafford-Johnson, Natalie | MSc BES (Econ track) |
| | Chen, Binjie | MSc EIFE |
| | He, Qi | MSc EIFE |
| Absent | Karalis Isaac, Alex | Deputy Director of PGT Programmes |
| | Taylor, Kelly | Head of Administration (Teaching and Learning) |

1. Review of Minutes & Actions meeting 24 October 2018

The last minutes of the last meeting on 28 November 2018 were found to be true and accurate.

2. Matters Arising

Nothing to discuss.

3. Learning Resources (Library/IT)

Library:

- Students are encouraged to give feedback about the library for the 'Your Future Library' campaign to help the library staff with the building of library 2.
- It was noted that there will be some refurbishment happening in the library over the summer, and whilst best efforts will be made to not disrupt students, this work would be happening during term 3.
- There is some extra money available for more books in the library, and students with recommendations about what books to buy should contact Helen Riley.
- Resources available at the PG Hub were advertised.

4. Careers and Skills

Careers:

- Following up from student feedback, Stephanie will be running an interview skills session for students and is communicating with the department about the most ideal time to run this to avoid timetable clashes.
- There will be an extra lecture to advise students on issues surrounding visas over the following weeks.

5. Teaching and Learning

MSc Redesign

- The department is considering a redesign of the EC901 Economic Analysis module to change this to four modules. Students would have the choice between a more applied version (A) or a more theoretical version (B).
- The department emphasised that the A option is not an easy choice but would suit students who are looking for a more applied option.
- It is also possible for students to choose a combination of A and B modules.

6. Student Engagement and Support

Module Evaluation

- Module evaluation reports will be posted and available for students to view online. It was thought that less than 50% of the cohort took the module evaluation surveys. Therefore, all members of the SSLC were encouraged to advertise Term 2 Module Evaluation.

7. Assessment and Feedback

Previous exam solutions were brief; for example EC9012 part 2

- The department has a policy to provide a bottom line answer for solutions, however the department may consider about holding a session to go through past paper solutions to ensure there is similarity.
- It was noted that the exam solutions for EC9011 were at a good level.

Reading time in the exam should be provided

- The department explained that the reading time had been stopped as the exams moved from being 2 hours to 3 hours. However it was also noted that the amount of questions students have to answer has increased and that a **15** minutes reading time would be considered for next year.

Exams were both long and difficult, there should be a compromise

- When the marks have been recorded the department will be able to assess the difficulty of the exam from the marks students receive.
- It was emphasised by the department that there was no decision to make the exams more difficult than previous years.
- Students should not be concerned and it was suggested that the course representatives could send out a message to students to reassure them.

Difference between the expectations of macro and micro

- It was noted that the nature of the assessments for EC9011 and EC9012 was profoundly different: in the former, students were asked to complete exercises whose structure was known to them; in the latter students were asked to build upon the knowledge acquired during the course and see how far they could go. Department will look into the matter with the relevant staff and get back to the SSLC.

8. Dissertation

- Department asked the SSLC to encourage students to participate in EC959 lectures.

9. Organisation of the course

Nothing to discuss.

10. Gender Equality and Diversity

Nothing to discuss.

11. AOB

Nothing to discuss.

12. Next meeting

The next GSSLC meeting is scheduled on Wednesday 6 March 2019, 14.00-15.00 in room S2.133.