

GRADUATE STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

For the Post Graduate Taught Staff-Student Liaison Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 24th May 2017 at 12.00 pm in room S2.77.

Staff representatives: Carolyn Andrews; Helen Riley; Sue Rattigan; Jeremy Smith; Nick Zammit.

Student representatives: Jordan Barnard (MSc Econ); Gilda Romano (MSc Econ); Symbat Tassybayeva (MSc Econ); Canberk Yalcin (MSc Econ); Beatrice Falga (MSc EIFE); Mohammed Homoud (MSc EIFE); Matthew Chennells (MSc BES).

Chairman: Canberk Yalcin. **Secretary:** Gilda Romano.

Missing staff representatives: Sascha Becker; Kelly Taylor.

1. Attendance of the members taken

2. Review of the last meeting minutes

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and the actions agreed by the Department were implemented accordingly.

3. Library issues

None to report. Helen Riley will be available throughout the summer and encourages students to get in touch with her for enquiries about their dissertation.

4. Students Careers and Skills

No issues to report.

5. Computing Issues

a. Issue: Two or three computers in the MSc Study Room are not working.

Action: The IT service will be informed.

6. Curriculum Organization, Design and Content

a. Issue: The module Topics in Development & Transition had too many required readings compared to the material required in other development courses.

Action: The organization of this module will be reviewed and its content will probably be aligned to content of Public Policy and Developing Countries.

b. Issue: The module Experimental Economics doesn't cover the experimental approach in depth. It was covered more in detail in Econometrics B.

Action: The content of Experimental Economics will be reviewed accordingly.

c. Issue: The design of Economic Analysis (Macroeconomics and Microeconomics) was discussed again as it is currently under review.

Action: Different ideas are being reviewed. In order to avoid the final exam having to carry 100% of the weight, mid-term problem sets may be introduced. An end-of-term test would not be effective as students would not get a feedback in time for the exam.

d. Issue: One of the lectures for Monetary Economics was cancelled and never rescheduled. Moreover, there should be a revision lecture for this exam too.

Action: The Department will consider the feedback and act accordingly.

7. Curriculum Development

No issues to report.

8. Teaching and Learning

- a. Issue: The Minutes from the Institutional Teaching and Review 2017 are now available.
Action: The student representatives will inform the students.

9. Methods of Examination and Assessment

- a. Issue: The Econometrics B exam was very theoretical. Students would like the exam to include also a more applied to section with e.g. some Stata outputs to analyse or cointegration relationships to recognize.
Action: The feedback will be taken into account by the Department.
- b. Issue: The Monetary Economics exam resulted to be very hard for most students. The question on VARs was not covered in depth in the lectures and students taking Econometrics B had an unfair advantage given the econometric nature of the question. The question on the equilibrium process was ambiguous, as it was not clear if the students should find the matrix or the undetermined coefficients. Moreover, there was no reflection of the past papers in the exam, and several topics covered in the lectures (such as unconventional monetary policy) were not examined in the end. Many students are worried about failing.
Action: The staff points out that the Monetary exam will be submitted to an external examiner in June, as it is the procedure for all exam papers.
- c. Issue: The Industrial Economics exam included an exercise with a system of four equations, while the lecturer had said that students should not expect more than three equations in the system.
Action: The lecturers should not give any indication regarding what could come up in the exam during the revision lecture.
- e. Issue: One third of the students of Topics in Public Finance was not aware of the change in the rubric. The old exam format asked to answer one question from section A and one from section B, while in the new format both questions in section A were compulsory. This has potentially affected the outcome of the exam for those students.
Action: The Department will make sure that next year all students will be informed of a change in the rubric in any module.
- e. Issue: One part of the exam has not been covered in the lectures nor in the papers required for the exam. It is discouraging for students when most part of a question is based on material not covered.
Action: The lecturer replies that he thought the question was suitable for the level of the material, and that the question required the application of a model applied to intuition. He disagrees that the question created a bias in favour of those who had a background covering the topic.

10. Student Support and Guidance

Nothing to report.

11. Any other business

- a. Issue: Students are waiting for the Bloomberg Terminal to be available in order to proceed with their dissertations.
Action: The Terminal will be ready by following week.