

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

Date: 15th January 2020

Place: Room S2.133, Social Sciences

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Attendees:

Staff Representatives:

Jeremy Smith	Head of Department
Alex Karalis Isaac	Deputy Director of PGT Programmes (MSc)
Robin Naylor	Director of Studies
Carolyn Andrews	Postgraduate Taught Programmes Manager
Kelly Taylor	Head of Administration, T&L
Claire Gerard	Communications Manager
Lucia Ashley	Student Engagement and Experience Coordinator
Bozena Beauclair	Marketing and Communications Manager

Student representatives:

Aisha Intesar	MSc. Economics (Chair)
Alex Li	MSc. Economics (Secretary)
Sambhav Choudhury	MSc. EIFE
Sharon Mutiti.	MSc. EIFE
Catherine Ojo	MSc. Economics
Pratik Sanghvi	MSc. Economics

Apologies:

Helen Riley	Library representative
Stephanie Redding	Senior Careers Consultant

1. Membership of the Committee

- Because of the presence of a new chair and secretary at the meeting, everyone introduced themselves again and the meeting commenced.

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November, 2019

We highlighted the points that were discussed in the last meeting:

- Low level of student engagement- for instance, no students went to the office hours held by Ms. Mahnaz Nazneen. The prospective solution was to redirect the important information in the email via the WhatsApp and WeChat Groups.
- Newly Scheduled Pizza social night
- Limited participation in the Coffee and Cake sessions
- Mid-term Microeconomics and Macroeconomics feedback
- Discussions on how to improve the accessibility of the Student careers support.

3. Library & IT

- There were no specific complains by the students.
- Helen suggested to let students know that they can email her as soon as they can provided, they have questions about data and resources. Also, students can go to her office hours in room S0.86 or contact her through email to make appointments.
- A suggestion of moving some of the computers from second floor to the first-floor workspaces was brought up and after discussing it, it was concluded that there's no need to do that as students prefer to use their own laptops in the group workspaces.
- Also, the newspapers in the common room are very useful and people do read them.

4. Teaching and Learning

- A new MSc course Economics and Health Economics is planned for the year 2021/22 and students were supportive of the proposal.
- A prospective idea of introducing Microeconomics A or B and Macroeconomics A or B was brought up by the faculty members. It was elaborated that the former would be more applied and the latter would be theory- based. The student representatives agreed with the same as it will give future MSc. Students more options in the selection of core modules.
- Alter the timing of this meeting for BES students- the Economics track representative would meet with Alex Karalis Isaac separately to discuss any course issues.
- Choosing three optional modules and an additional module is proposed by students.
- After the discussion, this is very unlikely to happen because students are busy with the existing four modules and their respective deadlines.
- Room change for Econometrics B and Applications of Data Science because of the size and lighting of those rooms. An assurance was given that the IT staff will be sent to check these rooms and also resolve the lighting issue altogether.
- There were some complains about the extra material taught in the macroeconomics lectures. The staff mentioned that as long as the Professor mentions that it will not be tested, it is not

a problem. Moreover, the faculty responded that MSc. programs are meant to be about developing skills and knowledge and that everything taught need not be examined.

- Also, the Macroeconomics and Econometrics A seminars did not have enough time to cover all the questions. Students can go to the review tutorials, and office hours of the seminar and lecture tutors, given they have additional questions after the seminar.
- Tutorial hours for Econometrics B- The department explained that since Econometrics is taught over a duration of two terms, it is less intense relative to the other core modules.

5. Exam

- Students Complained that the chairs in the exam room are not comfortable and other students leaving the room is distracting. They will be asked to leave the room quietly in the future exams.

6. Organization of the course

- Optional module clashes. There is nothing that can be done as all timetables are set. lecture recordings. Suggestions to their department could be made.
- Also, BES students require lecture recordings. Suggestions to their department will be made with respect to the same.

7. Skills Development and Careers

- A suggestion was made that a D&C web page link could be on the MSc web page and Ms. Stephanie Redding is aware of this and the respective staff is currently working on this.
- Email will be sent to students with useful links to study resources.

8. Dissertation

- There will be lectures about dissertations

9. Other Business

- Creating a video tape for the SSLC Group. The department asked if any student would be interested in participating in a video about their experiences around gender and diversity. In order to start the process, it was asked if any SSLC members would like to initiate.