

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES EDUCATION & STUDENT EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 10:00, WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2025
SENATE HOUSE COUNCIL CHAMBER

Present	Dr Karen Simecek	Chair, Faculty Deputy Chair (Education)
	Ali Collins	Head of Careers, Student Opportunity
	Claire Edden	Widening Participation Faculty Engagement Manager
	Marie Greene	Faculty Representative (Arts)
	Katherine High	Director of Undergraduate Studies, WGA
	Dr Tim Highfield	Deputy Director of Postgraduate Teaching Studies, CIM
	Dr Charlotte Jones	Director of Academic Studies CLL, SELCS
	Professor Olympia Palikara	Faculty Deputy Chair (External Engagement)
	Dr Leda Mirbahai	Faculty Representative (SEM)
	Dr Anna Michalska	Deputy Chair (PGT & PGR), WBS
	Dr Lynne Pettinger	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Sociology
	Dr Claudia Rei	Deputy Head of Department (Teaching), Economics
	Dr Lorenzo Serini	Director of Student Experience and Progression, Philosophy
	Professor Jacky Swan	Pro Dean Teaching and Learning, WBS
	Hrishi Tavar	Student Rep (PGT)
	Kelly Taylor	Student Services Manager, Law
	Professor Christian Twigg-Flesner	Director of Education, Law
	Fiona Wallace	Deputy Chair (UG) and Director of Education, WGA
Attending	Gabriella Bersanetti	Secretary, EPQ
	Alex Pilkington	Assistant Secretary, EPQ
	Lila Tennent	SS Connect Programme
Ref	Item	
001	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from: Professor Ozlem Atikcan, Professor Jane Bryan, Jackie Clarke, Dr Thomas Crowther, Dr Sarah Dahl, Mark Johnson, Jack Keen, Dr Cath Lambert, Dr Mahnaz Nazneen, Professor Trevor McCrisken, Dr Mark Pulsford, Dr Katharina Sarter, Matteo Serafimovski, Dr Julia Welland.	
002	Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
003	Minutes of Meeting held on 30 April 2025 The minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2025 (003- SSESE121125 Public) were approved .	
004	Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 30 April 2025 There were no matters arising.	
005	Membership and Terms of Reference 2025-26 - The Committee received and noted a report on its revised purpose, terms of reference, constitution, membership, and reporting lines for 2025/26. - Members were informed that a committee effectiveness review would take place at the end of the year. - It was noted that the Student Engagement Coordinator role was vacant and an advert for expressions of interest would be circulated in due course.	

	DECISION: The Committee recommended to the Education and Student Experience Committee for approval the revised purpose, terms of reference, constitution and membership of the Social Sciences FESEC.
Chair's Update	
006	Chair's Business and Actions • Recommendations from the Personal Tutor Review had been published, and members were encouraged to engage. A faculty approach to the recommendations would be discussed at the next committee meeting. • Education Priority Dialogues had commenced and would continue throughout term one, with faculty representatives attending each meeting. • The Chair reported progress on module pre-registration, with plans to present process improvements to departmental administrators. The aim was to reduce staff burden and improve data sharing. • Employability was a priority for the faculty and aligned with institutional priorities. A faculty working group was being created in collaboration with the Head of Careers and Senior Careers Consultants to develop a faculty approach and explore a first-year employability module. Expressions of interest were invited to join the working group. ACTION: To notify the secretariat of any expressions of interest to join the working group.
Main Section	
007	Faculty of Social Sciences Priorities in Education and Student Experience for 2025-26 The Chair opened a discussion on faculty priorities, as set out in paper 007-SSESE121125 (Public). The key points were as follows: • The Chair confirmed that the key faculty priorities for 2025-26 were employability in the curriculum, and assessment and feedback. • The Committee discussed the faculty focused NSS and PTES survey results report, noting that the large return from WBS had potentially skewed the overall faculty picture. • The Chair highlighted academic support, management and organisation, and student voice as strengths but noted that assessment and feedback remained an area of focus for the faculty. • The Committee discussed departmental approaches to enhancing assessment and feedback across the faculty. The following points were raised during a discussion amongst members: • Members noted delays in feedback following industrial action which had potentially impacted NSS results. • Concerns were raised about assessment loading, marking pressures, and inconsistent feedback approaches across programmes, including over- and under-feedback. • Initiatives proposed included reviewing assessment diets, trialling assessment-specific marking criteria, and tailoring support structures. • It was noted that WBS scores remained static and there was ongoing work to analyse open text comments on whether feedback was helping students to improve their work; sharing good practice was encouraged. • Members highlighted the need for student reflection on feedback, consistency in marking, and supporting new staff without overloading individuals. ACTIONS: 1) To circulate the Economics summary on departmental approach to assessment and feedback.

	2) For future reporting, to request that EPQ provide differentiated analysis: one including WBS in the dataset and one excluding it.
008	Institutional Priorities in Education and Student Experience for 2025-26 The Deputy Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) presented the institutional priorities for the year, as set out in paper 008-SSESE121125 (Public). The key points were as follows: • Leading educational excellence, an inclusive student education and experience, empowered students and graduates, and communities and connection were highlighted as priority themes arising from key strategic objectives. • Underpinning these priorities were a number of structural enablers, which would enhance the University's ability to deliver on the priorities • Education HQ would provide a single point of access and communication for staff on matters of learning, teaching and quality. • The Student Success Dashboard had been rolled out in SEM which monitored attendance, assessment, and engagement with Moodle at a module level. The dashboard would be available for Social Sciences in term two. • There would be further departmental meetings in the new year to move forward with academic calendar reform. • Work on the timetabling system replacement had begun. The following points were raised during a discussion amongst members: • Members agreed that involving departments in the timetabling discussion was important so that their knowledge and expertise could inform the development of the new system. • Inclusivity in employability was discussed and challenges recognised for Foundation students with placements and internships. Virtual internships were considered as an accessible option.
009	Inclusive Education The Senior Project Officer (Education) presented an Inclusive Education update, as set out in paper 009-SSESE121125 (Public). The key points were as follows: • The 2025/26 submissions reflected a maturing landscape, where inclusive education was increasingly embedded into curriculum design, student support, and departmental strategy. • Faculty funding considered collaborative projects and sustainable structural changes. • High levels of co-creation were noted, with departments investing in peer networks, mentoring schemes, and collaborative curriculum development. • Data-informed approaches were guiding targeted interventions, while wellbeing, neurodiversity, and disability inclusion were receiving greater attention. • Plans were underway for an event in May to merge faculty-level inclusive education events and encourage cross-faculty collaboration and sharing of practice.
010	Academic Integrity and AI Working Group The Deputy Chairs (UG and PG) opened a discussion on Academic Integrity and AI, as set out in paper 010-SSESE121125 (Public). The key points were as follows: • A faculty-wide initiative was proposed to establish a working group (co-chaired by the Deputy Chairs) to understand and respond to issues emerging around the use of GenAI with respect to Academic Integrity at a faculty level. • Institutional guidelines were considered vague, creating pressure on individual schools and departments.

	• The Committee discussed key themes the working group could investigate and address in this area. • It was anticipated that the output(s) would be recommended as practice to be adopted by the wider faculty in line with the terms of reference of this Committee. • The working group would report back and share progress at the term three meeting in May. The following points were raised during a discussion amongst members: • Members agreed the need to review assessment strategies and diversify approaches. • Tensions were noted around evidencing issues at Academic Conduct Panels (ACP). It was agreed that the working group's remit would include support for markers and moderators through training and examples of good practice. • University guidance was viewed as unhelpful in some areas; some departments sought to discourage AI use to preserve critical thinking and maintain student voice and confidence. • Complications were highlighted for joint degree students where departmental approaches might differ, which added complexity for ACPs and optional modules. • Arts were launching the writing app pilot to improve student confidence in using their academic voice and Graduate Teaching Assistants were working with students at the faculty level. The Arts representative would feedback on progress at a future committee meeting. • Assessment design would be part of working group remit; it was agreed that prohibition of AI was no longer meaningful and the focus should shift towards clearer guidance and integration into assessment design. • From a careers perspective, employer expectations for AI skills were noted and this should be considered in approaches to teaching and assessment. ACTION: To notify secretariat of any expressions of interest to join the working group
011	Emerging issues The Chair introduced a new standing item of protected time to raise any emerging issues that were not on the meeting agenda. The Faculty of Arts Representative highlighted an Arts led strategic project focused on harmonising assessment strategies and would feedback on progress at a future meeting of the committee.
Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion	
012	Chair's Action since last meeting The committee received and noted the report (012-SSESE121125, General).
013	Widening Participation Update The committee received and noted the report (013-SSESE121125, Public).
014	Course Approvals Report 2024/25 The committee received and noted the report (014-SSESE121125, Public).
015	Social Sciences Connect Programme Update The committee received and noted the report (015-SSESE121125, General).
016	External Engagement Update The committee received and noted the report (016-SSESE121125, General).
017	Long-term Collective Student Research Programme The committee received and noted the report (017-SSESE121125, Public).
Other	
018	Any Other Business There was no other business.
Next meeting: Wednesday 4 February, 14.00-16.00, Senate House Council Chamber	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
2025-2026			
005- Membership and Terms of Reference 2025-26	DECISION: The Committee recommended to the Education and Student Experience Committee for approval the revised purpose, terms of reference, constitution and membership of the FESEC (Social Sciences).	<i>Secretariat December 2025</i>	<i>Completed</i>
006- Chair's Business and Actions	ACTION: To notify the secretariat of any expressions of interest to join the Employability working group.	<i>Members & Secretariat January 2026</i>	<i>Completed</i>
007- Faculty of Social Sciences Priorities in Education and Student Experience for 2025-26	ACTION 1: To circulate Economics summary on departmental approach to assessment and feedback.	<i>Secretariat November 2025</i>	<i>Completed</i>
	ACTION 2: For future reporting, to request that EPQ provide differentiated analysis: one including WBS in the dataset and one excluding it.	<i>Secretariat November 2025</i>	<i>Completed</i>
010- Academic Integrity and AI Working Group	ACTION: To notify secretariat of any expressions of interest to join the Academic Integrity and AI working group	<i>Members & Secretariat January 2026</i>	<i>Completed</i>