

# **GRADUATE STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Meeting to be held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Attendees

### Staff representatives:

Lory Barile	Director PGT programmes
Alex Karalis Isaac	Deputy Director PGT programmes (Academic Convenor)
Helen Riley	Library Representative
Lucia Ashley	Student Engagement and Experience Coordinator

### Student Representatives:

James Clarke	MSc Econ (Chair)
Arushi Nautiyal	MSc EIFE (Secretary)
Kashish Kaur	MSc Econ
Sushil Mathew	MSc Econ
Haoran Wang	MSc Econ
Ziyan Ma	MSc EIFE
Ethan McQuaid	MSc BES (Economics Track)
Ayush Shastry	MSc BES (Science Track)

## Apologies

Jeremy Smith	Head of Department
Jennifer Smith	Director of Studies
Stephanie Redding	Senior Careers Consultant

**1. Declarations of interest**

- No conflict of interest

**2. Resources (Library/IT)**

- Helen mentioned that she had emailed all Economics students the extra resources available during COVID-19 services. Asked for feedback for postal service and mentioned that it is not possible to post books internationally due to cost reasons. The scan service available can help everyone.
- The university is discussing increasing the study services available to students- currently working on that. The department is also working on making more virtual textbooks available
- Students should contact Helen if trying to find data for Econometrics project or dissertation. The library provides immense support for dissertation- best service provided one-to-one so get in touch at the earliest
- Confusion with the EC910 reading list- the library has contacted the module leader to clarify the confusion
- Library is shut for the Printing services hence alternative places available on campus are PG Hub and Rootes Building

**3. Skills Development and Careers**

- Career Interview training on 8<sup>th</sup> Feb – email sent out by Lucia
- Alex confirmed if any questions to be collected and sent out to Stephanie – no concerns raised

**4. Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020**

- James confirmed if any sort of mock papers with actual time limit will be available for May exams
- Alex mentioned that he is not aware as of now but will follow up with the department
- Arushi clarified if printed handouts will be available to study. Alex confirmed that handouts cannot be printed due to Social Sciences building being shut (COVID-19 lockdown). He suggested that students use the printing services provided at alternative locations mentioned by Helen.

**5. Matters Arising**

- Arushi, Ethan and Sushil raised the concern that students feel that the fee is as high as it would have been during normal circumstances, but they are not getting enough resources out of the university as they otherwise would have
- Sushil – students are experiencing an overwhelming feeling that it is not meeting the standard of normal circumstances- eg. students not being able to use lecture theatres, university spaces, study spaces to name a few
- Alex mentioned that due to the COVID-19 constraint, every available option can only be an online offering hence tough to see an increase in physical provision

## 6. Teaching and Learning

- James- A&F hours before the exams weren't long enough and students felt slightly rushed in the time space that was given to each student. Few feedbacks included that they were given 15 minutes slots approximately which was considered less by the students. Another concern was that these slots would get filled up quickly- this was more of a problem closer to the exams
- Alex mentioned that students pile up doubts and therefore the A&F hours get over subscribed and hence he would recommend students to not let their query pile up till the end of term because lecturers do not have extra hours
  - SSLC to encourage students to use A&F hours through the term
- Sushil raised the concern that students have to wait for a week for asynchronous lectures, so doubts get added up and A&F hours were lesser – big gap between the session and the time they got to ask their doubt- seminars were being taken by the lecturers as well
- Alex suggested that students use lecturers' office hours as a source of intermediate interactions. Students should discuss this with module leader on how they can increase the interaction between students and lecturers. Alex mentioned that doubts could also be clarified with the seminar tutor who has their own office hours
- Sushil- most seminars are taken by the lecturers themselves, so the students are getting less time now in office hours
- Lory suggested that an extra session over on above in the middle of Term could be added as an extra Q&A session/ mid-term review session. Students can request the module lecturers. Lory mentioned that the problem is exaggerated by the COVID-19, earlier students could solve each other's doubt but now it's tougher with the virtual world hence she encourages students to increase the use of Forum on the Moodle
- James- no access to last pass mark scheme Exams for Micro hence it was tough to judge their preparation level. Students suggested that in the modules where the solutions to past papers was provided, they managed to understand their standing and how to answer the questions better. James suggested that maybe lecturers could increase the past papers solution sessions
- Lory- department policy to not ask lecturers to solve previous exams- suggestion to students is that they solve the paper themselves and ask lecturers the doubts- ask for the extra support you think is relevant to improve your learning journey
- Alex too suggested that solving questions and taking them to A&F hours once solved – also making study groups is helpful as common answers would most probably be helpful – ensuring students have a go hence answers are generally not provided- make groups and go through doubts
- James clarified about possible resits. Lory confirmed that they will be held in September following standard online format

## 7. Student Engagement and Support

- Lucia- arranging a virtual music concert in Week 20- currently planning. This will be held in Chinese New Year week and is open to all students. Students are encouraged to volunteer and participate to play an instrument of their choice

in-front of the department- called “Culture Event” hence everyone encouraged to take part to increase diversity. Received positive response from the SSLC cohort.

#### **8. Assessment and Feedback**

- Arushi - Macroeconomics B exam feedback from the students. Students found the exam tough and the questions were a bit different from the ones practised in the problem sets. The department was happy to receive the feedback as the B variants of Economic Analysis module is a new addition to the module.
- James clarified that the rest of the detailed exam feedback was to be emailed to the Alex and Lory after the meeting

#### **9. Dissertation**

- James mentioned that there was bit of confusion about the lectures for this module
- Alex confirmed that Week 18 online synchronous sessions start
- Lory- there will two Q&A sessions (one at the start and another at the end of term) with department staff. There will also be sessions with the external speakers from Bank of England (BOE) and Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change  
Specifically:  
3 February – Session with Module Leader- Stefano Caria  
**(EXTERNAL)** 10 February- Mahmoud Fatouh and/ or Benjamin Guin (Bank of England)  
17 February- Q&A session 1- Lory Barile, Stefano Caria and Christopher Roth  
**(EXTERNAL)** 24 February- Mahmoud Fatouh and/ or Benjamin Guin (Bank of England)  
**(EXTERNAL)** 10 March- Alaa Al Khourdajie (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)  
17 March- Q&A Session 2- Wiji Arulampalam, Gianna Boero, Stefano Caria, James Fenske  
Further details to be checked on the webpage
- BOE research support scheme- MSc Econ and MSc EIFE will have the opportunity to be supported by a member of BOE- two sessions from BOE and one session with the senior economist at Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change

#### **10. Organisation of the Course**

- No concerns

#### **11. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

- No concerns

#### **12. Any other business**

- No concerns