

## STUDENT- STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting 1/19

30 May 2019

**Present:** Dakoda Titmus (Chair), Prof Daniel Zizzo, Prof Alicia Rambaldi, Mr Carl Sherwood, A/Prof Peter Earl, Ms Megan Sandaver, Jinji Wang, Navchaa Tumurbaatar, Benjamin Scott, Vinh Vo Ly Hoai, Chelsea van der Merwe, Phiet Le, Abigail Smith, Tuguldur Batsaikhan, Li Xuan Tan, Shadid Ahmed, Arita Puriso, Erin Allport, Kieu My (Michelle) Tran, Connor Harvey.

1. **Apologies:** A/Prof Renuka Mahadevan, Tooru Nishido, Grace Reinhold, Patrick Duenow.

2. **Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting**

Nil

3. **Declaration of any Conflicts of Interest**

Nil

4. **Business Arising from the previous Minutes**

Nil

5. **Standing Items**

### 5.1 Introductions

Members introduced themselves and welcomed each other to the committee in the School of Economics.

### 5.2 Confirm Terms of Reference

The draft terms of reference for the committee were discussed and it was confirmed that the membership of the committee should also be listed. It was agreed that any changes to the document would be circulated via email. It was also confirmed that the committee would be officially called Student-Staff Liaison Committee as had been called Staff-Student Liaison Committee on some documents.

**Action:** Chair and Secretary to add membership list to terms of reference and then circulate to members prior to next meeting. Document should be placed on website for students to be able to access and contact the Committee membership.

### 5.3 Role of Committee Members

Committee members discussed the membership and agreed that it should be representative of the student body in terms of gender balance, programs offered by the School and international and domestic students. It was agreed that this framework of membership should be included in the terms of reference. It was also discussed that it was important to define what membership of the committee means and what role each member could play. It was confirmed that the Director of Education was the academic staff representative for all programs apart from the HDR and BA programs for which A/Prof Earl was the dual academic staff representative.

**Action:** Manager of Coursework Students and Programs to assist committee chair and secretary in adding this information to Terms of Reference.

#### 5.4 School Strategy

Professor Zizzo invited the committee members to give feedback on the document and indicated that the key areas of the document that relate to students were employability, greater engagement between domestic and international students, mentoring and exchanges. There was also a focus on adding a more global dimension in curricular and extra-curricular activities such as the UQ/Exeter competition. Blended learning and the use of digital technologies was also discussed. Some of these items may be discussed in more detail at later meetings of the committee. Michelle Tran, the HDR student representative raised a question regarding the benefits outlined in the strategic plan for current HDR students as the focus appeared to be on future students. She also mentioned that many HDR students were on a non-academic pathway after graduation whereas many of the proposals outlined catered only for the academic pathway. It was acknowledged that preparing students for an alternative pathway outside academia, such as industry placements, was important. Prof Zizzo indicated that he was currently in talks with the UQ Graduate School regarding this. Vinh Vo suggested that SSLC members could assist with sub projects and some could be student led initiatives. Shadid Ahmed mentioned the importance of membership of UQ Economics Society and the work they do regarding employability. Prof Rambaldi also encouraged membership of the QLD chapter of the Economics Society.

The committee then discussed the issue of casual and fixed term lecturers employed to teach courses and the benefits and drawbacks of this. Prof Zizzo indicated that the new mechanism of course reviews at the end of each semester would assist to identify issues in courses and that the School would be taking steps to better strengthen the performance review of lecturers.

#### 5.5 Discussion of visibility and awareness of committee amongst students

Members discussed the ways in which the committee would be visible to Economics students, various suggestions were mentioned including the School of Economics website and marketing the committee through the UQES and PPE student society. Social media platforms such as Facebook and Wechat were proposed as good channels to raise awareness of the committee. Jinji Wang also raised the idea of using the noticeboards in student accommodation and using Weibo for international students from China. It was agreed that their needed to be better engagement with international students in particular. Other communication methods discussed included; PowerPoint slides in lectures, Currency Newsletter, orientation events, social events in conjunction with student societies. Abigail Smith raised the idea of a Swotvac event where SSLC reps would be available for a casual chat over a coffee at the BelTop Café.

**Action:** Student representatives to meet and discuss the progression of some of these ideas for Semester 2 to start to raise awareness of the committee and the role of the committee to be a student voice and liaison to School staff.

#### 5.6 4th year of Bachelor of Philosophy, Politics and Economics

Connor Harvey wishes to make the committee aware that some Bachelor of Philosophy, Politics and Economics students has raised concern that they were having difficulty with the mathematical content of ECON2010 and ECON2020 as they had not completed the suggested prerequisite of ECON1050. They therefore suggested that ECON1050 be included in Part B of the BPPE program.

Connor also mentioned that the BPPE students would like to start an advisory board, similar to one in place for the B Advanced Finance and Economics program

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**Action:** Manager of Coursework Students and Programs and Director of Education to assess the viability of a program change to allow for the inclusion of ECON1050 in Part B of the program. The establishment of an advisory board to be added to the list of BPPE projects currently being worked on in the School.

The next meeting of the committee would be confirmed via Doodle Poll and student representatives would meet in between meetings to continue discussions about raising awareness of the committee. Chair and Secretary to liaise with student reps to determine the best time and location for this.

**6. Items for Information**

Nil

**7. General Business**

Nil

**8. Policies due for review**

Nil

**9. Next Meeting:** Semester 2/2019 – Date TBA