

STUDENT-STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting 4/20

24 Nov 2020

Not for general publication

Present: Dakota Titmus (Chair), Navchaa Tumurbaatar (Secretary), Prof Daniel Zizzo, Mr Carl Sherwood, Ms Megan Sandaver, Erin Allport, Grace Reinhold, Jennifer Zhang, Phiet Le, Emma Grady, Arita Puriso, Nikhil Dugar.

1. **Apologies:** A/Prof Peter Earl, Prof Alicia Rambaldi, Tooru Nishido, Phuong Linh Tran, Ragini Chopra Ashok, Abigail Smith, Patrick Duenow, Elli Price (BEL Communication), Benjamin Scott, Vinh Vi Ly Hoai, Chelsea van der Merwe.

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

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

Actions taken on the previous agenda items are followings.

Agenda item 3.b.3 – If I set a final exam, will my students be able to view the exam afterwards?

No. No physical exam viewing sessions are to take place. Instead, you should post on Blackboard a copy of the exam with key answer points/exemplars for students to review. This will help students understand what was/wasn't done well, and thus help them make up their mind about whether they want to seek further feedback. You can then provide 5-10 minute time slots for zoom consultations. This could be done in small groups or individually (with more time allowed for a group of students).

TIP: Consider making a short video of the main feedback you want to provide for each assessment task, and post this with an announcement to your course BB site. Course Coordinators who have done this find that it reduces the number of requests for individual consultations with students wanting assessment feedback.

Note: students ARE entitled to feedback for each assessment task, and there are a number of options that can be offered to accommodate this, as per the 'TIP' above.

Agenda item 4 – Chair informed there are not many economic students in other societies and hence UQES and PPE deemed to be the right channels to reach out econ students.

4. **Standing items**

1. Chair welcomed the new president of PPE, Emma Grady.
2. COVID-19 situation and its impact on SoE

Prof Zizzo informed that SoE expects to run Sem 1, 2021 on a mixed mode, flexible and external. Due to easing of Covid-19 restriction by QLD government, number of enrolled students is expected to change. With respect to quality of online teaching, SoE have been regularly reviewing the process, especially assessments. Therefore, it is important that students raise any concerns they may have and provide feedback. In terms of bringing international students, the international corridor pilot has been paused due to recent Covid-19 outbreak in South Australia. UQ is in active conversation with QLD government for future opportunities for international students to arrive, however, it is unlikely to happen in Sem 1, 2021. The long-term picture is not changed. Online teaching opportunity will

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continue, however, it will not replace face-to-face, rather it will be used to enrich teaching and learning experience.

There is an upcoming development to be solved in the next three to four weeks. Due to teaching staff voluntary separation process, and tight financial position, number of staff at SoE are leaving and hence there will be changes in teaching staff in Sem 1, 2021.

2.a. Work From Home arrangement for SOE Professional Staff

Due to Covid-19, professional staff have been working from home once a week since Sem 2, 2020. SoE would like to hear students' feedback whether this arrangement may affect any students. Student members raised no concerns as long as professional staff working arrangement information is informed to students either via Blackboard or different channels.

3. Bachelor of Economics - Academic Program Review Draft Document

Prof Zizzo informed the review process happens once every five years. This review of BEcon is similar to PA2 and has extra information. Review needs to be submitted for an approval by Christmas 2020 and student members' comments are welcome. In terms of postgraduate program review, the process has started and expected to finish by mid-2021. There will be further opportunities to consult with students.

4. Student feedback

a. BEL Bloom – SSLC student member Nikhil Dugar was present at the festival the entire time to represent SSLC along with PPE and UQES members. SSLC Secretary compiled all compliments and recommendations collected at the BEL Bloom festival and circulated to SSLC members. SoE appreciates the feedbacks and answered some of the recommendations (in italics) below.

- ECON2030 needs better coordination of assessment. The assessment for 2030 needs to be structured – *under course review with BAFE.*
- This year, The School of Economics should have a mentor-mentee program to encourage students to form study groups and encourage each other during their programs – *PASS scheme program available at undergraduate level. Worthwhile to have a look at postgraduate level.*
- This year, SoE could have improved their communication with students – *appreciate the comment, a specific suggestion is welcome.*
- I would like to see more offline courses for the SoE – *as previously discussed, there will be face-to-face component in coming years.*
- The School of Economics should be more suggestive for course selection – *PA2 provides better and simplified structure for undergraduate students and hope this will help to make better informed decision.*
- I have a finance course in my program and they had an assignment which was full of excel work. It was tough! I wish the SoE had offered more training on that. – *Finance courses are administered by mostly by Business school. There are excel trainings are provided by the Library*

b. UQES BEcon guide – lecturers' contributions

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The president of UQES, Jennifer Zhang, expressed an interest that BEcon guide would like to have some contributions from the lecturers on the course introductions. This will be an opt-in process and seeks whether SoE distribute this information to staff?

Mr Sherwood expressed that this is a great idea, however, a care should be taken to make sure the information is relevant since there have been many changes in the course contents, names and assessment due to PA2. He further suggests starting the process with four first year courses for Sem 1 and can facilitate contacting course coordinators.

Prof Zizzo further added this need to be optional exercise for lecturers and suggests having separate editions for Sem1 and Sem2 to avoid any confusion and misinformation among students due to staff changes staff and PA2. SoE will act as a facilitator. Secondly, UQES should prepare a brief on what they are looking for from the lecturers.

ACTION: Jennifer to liaise with Ms Sandaver.

5. SSLC member recruitment for 2021

Secretary informed that 17 applications received for Chair/Secretary roles and 16 applications received for volunteer members. The interview panel has been established and interview times and dates for Chair/Secretary roles are confirmed with potential candidates and will occur later this week. A hand-over meeting is likely to occur in Jan 2021.

6. Any other business

Chair and Prof Zizzo expressed their gratitude for every member of SSLC who has been contributing over the last two years.

5. Policies due for review

Nil

6. Next meeting

Sem 1, 2021