

STUDENT-STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MINUTES

Meeting 3/20

30 Sep 2020

Present: Dakota Titmus (Chair), Navchaa Tumurbaatar (Secretary), Prof Daniel Zizzo, Mr Carl Sherwood, A/Prof Peter Earl, Tooru Nishido, Phuong Linh Tran, Erin Allport, Ragini Chopra Ashok, Grace Reinhold, Jennifer Zhang, Abigail Smith, , Phiet Le, Patrick Duenow,

1. Apologies: Ms Megan Sandaver, Prof Alicia Rambaldi, Elli Price (BEL Communication), Benjamin Scott, Vinh Vi Ly Hoai, Chelsea van der Merwe, Arita Puriso, Nikhil Dugar, Connor Harvey

2. Confirmation of the Minutes from the previous meeting
Confirmed

3. Business Arising from the previous Minutes

Secretary informed that a SSLC member, Patrick, raised a question on tutorial recordings and obtaining consents from students during the last meeting, however, due to technical difficulties, it was not discussed. This question was addressed at the Education committee meeting and advised that all tutorials will be recorded to facilitate learning experience, providing equal access to all students. Tutors are to inform students about tutorial recordings at the beginning the class.

4. Standing items

1. Chair welcomed the new president of UQES, Jennifer Zhang.

2. COVID-19 situation and its impact on SoE

Prof. Daniel Zizzo provided an update. The main impact of Covid-19 is two-fold

- Pedagogical impact

- o Online delivery of teaching has been discussed at UQ level for some years, Covid-19 situation only accelerated this process. In the medium term, face-to-face delivery with social distancing measures will be in place.
- o The long-term solution is to provide face-to-face and online/mixed mode of teaching delivery and therefore, many developments have been occurring from pedagogical viewpoint. An example would be a borderless competition being an assessable item of a course.

- Financial impact. The school experienced a higher number of enrolments in Sem 2, 2020, especially more students enrolling from overseas. Also, some deferred students are coming back. However, a significant concern is in the number of new students as well as low number of students at the English language courses for 2021. This will have a roll-over effect. Overall, UQ's financial position is not as bad as other universities as a result of UQ financial reserves as well as efforts put in by both students and staff. Having said that, 2021 will be under financial constraint, but vast majority of the courses will run as usual. A small number of course, in a single digit number, may not be offered, however, this is not a long-term teaching and learning delivery.

- o If SoE is in a financially stable state, SoE is also looking into introducing tutorial classes for level 2 and 3 courses in 2021 that did not have tutorials in the past. There are other matters in discussions, including moving away from traditional

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MCQ assessments, reducing tutorial class size, provision of workshops where 2-3 tutors present at one time, one providing teaching and others facilitating online chat environment. But these issues have not been finalised.

- If SoE is under financial pressure, other various options are being considered at the moment.

3. Student feedback

- a. Borderless competition <https://economics.uq.edu.au/event/borderless>. Carl Sherwood informed 60-70 students applied for the current competition and enquired whether members of the committee are aware of this competition, and participated in the competition, if not, why. Members provided feedback that they are aware of the competition and did not participate because of reasons including, not able to choose topic, some logistical difficulties to work with team members, no provision of mentorship or networking opportunity with alumni.

SoE is to run a trial of Borderless competition as an assessable component in 2021 elective course, as part of group work. This is in line with employability skills and provision of global experience for students. Competition will be equivalent to 10-20 percent of the assessable contents, but the exact weight of assessment needs to be determined. This trial period in 2021 will provide further information to decide on which courses, large vs. small and compulsory vs elective, should be included in 2022 academic year.

Tooru raised a concern that as part of group work, there are free riders who may damage UQ reputation overseas, hence selection of course should be carefully thought, probably it is best to start with an elective course, such as trade and health policies.

Prof. Daniel Zizzo responded that industry alumni need to be partnered to be judge of the competition. For example, Adj Prof. Robert Wigley is considered being a judge and he has extensive experience in UK financial sector, UK government and start-up entrepreneurs. SoE is aware of the potential risks and therefore, it will carefully select international partners.

- b. Course feedback (ECP vs reality, duplication of assessment types, exam paper viewing sessions)

Secretary informed the following feedbacks received from students.

1. A course that is being externally delivered has provided a face-to-face delivery for one week. This is contradicting with ECP and no recording were provided and hence those who could not attend face-to-face lecture do not have access to the content for that week.
2. Similar types of assessments are required under different courses multiple times at postgraduate course level. For example, journal article reviews and writing research proposals. In response to that, Carl Sherwood informed that this will be investigated under Program Architecture 2 at postgraduate level.
3. Final exam viewing sessions are no longer available. Carl Sherwood responded that due to COVID, those face-to-face sessions are cancelled. Lecturers are informed to provide a model answer on blackboard, and organize online viewing sessions, if required.
4. Patrick raised a concern as a tutor how to provide viewing session on individual basis so that discussion can be private.

ACTION: Secretary to provide detailed information on item 1 to Carl Sherwood.
Carl Sherwood to provide a clarification on item 3.

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c. Upcoming assessment changes

1. PA2 – Bachelor of Economics is currently investigating each course and its assessment items, so that students do not repeat similar assessments along their journey. Traditionally, it has been exams, however, SoE intends to move away from MCQ to more authentic assessment.
PA2 – Postgraduate level will be completed next year. Mix of different assessment types are encouraged to prevent academic breach, such as contract cheating.

d. Academic integrity and plagiarism

1. From next year, all student must complete online academic integrity training by end of week 13. If a student does not complete it, UQ will not release the mark. If the student still does not complete it, he/she will be not able to enrol for the next semester.
2. To-date, 10% of part A and 15% for both part A and B of the training have been completed only.

4. The committee visibility

Communication plan drafted by Ellie Price from BEL marketing was circulated to members before the meeting. Members suggested further social media to be used, such as WeChat, to make sure that we are diversifying the point of reach.

Tooru suggested to cooperate with other Taiwanese or Chinese student associations.

ACTION: Chair to check if these societies have large number of economics students.

5. SSLC member recruitment for 2021

New member recruitment announcement and process/timeline document was circulated to members prior to meeting. Prof. Daniel Zizzo suggested selection panel to include one academic, professional staff and two students (Chair and Secretary).

In terms of number of members, SoE expressed its interest to have eight undergraduate and six postgraduate students to be recruited considering diversity of members. Scholarship for Chair and Secretary position is to remain at \$2000 per year.

6. Any other business

5. Policies due for review

Nil

6. Next meeting

24 Nov 2020