

STUDENT-STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting #3, 2022

19 August 2022

For general publication

Present: Rhiain Powell (Chair), Phiet Le (Secretary), Prof. Daniel Zizzo, Prof. KK Tang, A/Prof. Heiko Gerlach, Mr. Joe Symons, Smriti Girish Nair, Tian Behenna, Michael Carroll, Benjamin Stephens, Megha Thakkar, Hannah Lester (UQ PPES).

1. Apologies: A/Prof. Marco Faravelli, Issac Newbold (UQES), Austin Smidt, William Splatt, Adele Greedy-Vogel, Jarrod Richards, Arita Puriso, Guangyu Lyu, Isobel Kayrooz/Abigail (UQ WIES).

2. Confirmation of the minutes from the previous meeting:

Yes

3. Business arising from the previous meeting:

None

4. Business arising from this meeting:

i) Updates on ECON3510 – International Trade Theory & Policy:

- The course coordinator was on leave when the meeting happened. Prof. KK Tang said he will contact him/her once he/she is back.

ii) School Review:

- Prof. Daniel Zizzo gave the context that the School of Economics is required by the University to do its operation review every 7 years. Then the School needs to present it to a senior panel that consists some of the most important/influential academic staff from UQ.
- There are 2 areas of focus that the School of Economics wants to review on:
 - Internationalisation:
 - From the document being sent/shared by Prof. KK Tang before the meeting, the reason why the School of Economics wants to focus on this area is that “meeting people with different cultural backgrounds, either formally in a classroom or informally in a social setting, is a very enriching life experience. This is true for both domestic and international students. However, it is common to hear students tend to mingle with those with similar backgrounds, and even for those who are keen to meet with people of different backgrounds, it may not be easy to break their circle”. As such, the School of Economics wants to know: 1) if students are interested in meeting people with different cultural

backgrounds, and if yes, do they have enough opportunities to do so at UQ; 2) what the School can do to promote cross-culture interaction between students (or between students and staff) in both classrooms and social settings; and 3) besides meeting people of different cultural backgrounds within UQ, what else can the School do to help enrich students' 'international experience' without international travel.

- Rhian said that there are a lot of events at UQ for both domestic and international students. Both Rhian and Phiet agreed that most students who attended those events were international students (as they wanted to meet and be friend with domestic students). However, from past events in which the SSLC was present at, Phiet and Rhian noticed that not many domestic students attended. In addition to that, during lectures and tutorials, international students were the ones who attended them in person the most; domestic students mostly attended classes online/virtually.
- Tian had a different viewpoint to this. He said that in the class that he tutored, domestic students were the ones that showed up the most (more than international students). In his opinion, he thought that international students might be a little bit shy so that. To add onto this point, Benjamin said that for lower-level courses, international students might show up more than domestic students. And for higher-level courses, domestic students might show up more.
- Prof. Daniel Zizzo commented that for undergraduate cohort, there is a large population of domestic students. And for postgraduate cohort, international students represent a larger group.

○ Indigenisation of Curriculum:

- Hannah Lester said it is very important for economics courses to teach students about colonialism and how it impacts the society's economy. At the undergraduate level, ECON2560 touches about this topic a little bit.
- Rhian said that some courses can easily implement a little bit of topics about indigenisation. This will help students who want to work in the government sector (or in a government organisation) to have a wider perspective.

iii) Drop-in sessions:

- Prof. Daniel Zizzo recommended the SSLC to conduct the drop-in sessions in a hybrid model (i.e., offering both in-person and online sessions at the same time).

- By doing the drop-in sessions in a hybrid model, it might encourage more students to attend and talk to us. Phiet & Rhiain said that they will implement it into their future drop-in sessions.
 - While on the topic of hybrid model, Phiet mentioned that he heard from a lot of his peers that they really liked the hybrid learning environment (meaning, having a TA to be on Zoom to answer questions online while the Lecturer is delivering the lecture both online and in person). Although the hybrid learning model benefits to the students, but Phiet has heard from some of the teaching staff that it created a lot of work for them (e.g., recruit and train students/tutors to become a TA). Prof. Daniel Zizzo said that he will bring up these points to discuss with the staff in one of the school-wide meetings.
- iv) Recruitment for Chairperson and Secretary roles for 2023:
- Rhiain & Phiet will step down from their positions as Chair & Secretary of the SSLC by the end of 2022. As such, there will be a job advertisement be posted about these 2 positions on StudentHub, and Rhiain & Phiet encouraged all SSLC members who are interested in becoming the next Chair & Secretary to apply (and also to advertise to their friends/networks).
 - Prof. Daniel Zizzo asked if the SSLC could increase representation of students with disabilities in the committee for 2023. Rhiain & Phiet said they will look into it, and will try to find ways on how to have more students with disabilities be on the SSLC next year.
- v) Other business matters:
- Prof. Daniel Zizzo said that there will be a course review in Semester 1, 2023. He is hoping that the committee members to collect feedback from students so that the School of Economics can do a holistic course review.
 - Rhiain asked if the student societies could encourage its members to go out and talk to students to submit feedback through the SSLC website. The Presidents of UQES, UQ PPES and UQ WIES all agreed to help the SSLC out.

5. Action to do before the next meeting:

- Finalise the recruitment process of Chair & Secretary for 2023.

6. Next meeting:

TBD / TBA