

Student-Staff Liaison Committee Minutes Meeting #2, 2024

Date 14 May 2024

Attendees:

Name

Prof Daniel Zizzo
Joe Symons
John Raiti
Lachlan Armstrong
Abbey Croughan
Samuel Weir
Margaret Hayes

Ziqi Zhang
Varen Arya
Prof Ian MacKenzie
Hannah Stevens
Jeffrey Kline
Albert Kim

| Item | Agenda Item |
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| 1. | Apologies Trish Le Francisco Garcia Serena Huang Dominique Leong Lana Friesen Nishay Bhikra Poorvi Malik William Duffy Felipe Florit Nikolas Stamatiou Harsh Amit Mehta |
| 2. | Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome |
| 3. | Confirmation of Minutes from the Previous Meeting Yes. |
| 4. | Business Arising from the Previous Meeting 4.1 Employability Opportunities Lachlan provided an update regarding previous student commentary that there was a lack of employability opportunities available. <ul style="list-style-type: none">SSLC committee reviewed the accessibility of resources, inclusive of both structured UQ resources and student-run outreach activities. There was deemed to be a breadth of opportunities, with online UQ Employability resources, BEL Student Work Experience Program (SWEP), student societies and BEL faculty events.John and Ian pointed out that Employability will be organising a careers forum and other careers events which should further assist with outreach.Overall, it was largely deemed to be an isolated student issue, whereby opportunities are available when students actively pursue them. 4.2) Tutorial Teaching Follow-Up Lachlan followed up with the committee about prior concerns regarding the facilitation of tutorials, and the teaching style employed by the tutors. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Joe commented about there being opportunities leading up to Semester 2 i.e. prior to semester, for tutors to be reminded about the responsibilities and practices they should be employing. Joe identified that although the majority of tutor training is performed in the beginning of the year, there may be another chance to do a refreshed prior to Semester 2.Ian pointed out that there also needs to be clear Course Coordinator expectations of what their tutors should be doing, and this needs to be led by Course Coordinators. Ian commented that tutorial training |

and expectations are a continual process that involves evaluating current training, and then ensuring mid-year catchups have some sought of quality assurance and level of expectation.

- Joe mentioned that SETutor had gone out. Ian responded that the SETutor are seen by Course Coordinators, so they are aware of the feedback on tutors.
- Lachlan enquired about participation rates. Joe commented these weren't on hand, but an alternate SETutor approach was used this year, where students have been able to comment on any course tutor rather than their assigned one to allow more accurate evaluations given students tend to switch between different tutors. Joe hope this will provide more authentic evaluation and higher participation.

5. **Business Arising from this Meeting**

5.1) SSLC Collaboration with Student Societies

Lachlan raised the topic of SSLC collaboration and ways to increase students awareness and engagement. Lachlan commented that the SSLC was looking into introducing new events.

- Prof. Zizzo mentioned that in the past the SSLC was promoting ways domestic students could engage with international students, seeking events that would support a large cohort of students engaging together, and create strong student networks. Prof. Zizzo questioned how the SSLC could leverage the international nature of the student community to encourage interaction.
- Jeff queried if there were any existing events, commenting that engagement may be raised through incorporating cultural opportunities or food at an event.
- John commented that Bec Wood would be someone to contact regarding this, mentioning she focuses on first-year events but may have ideas about fostering cultural understanding and bringing everyone together given she is connected to networks of students.
- Sam suggested a broader networking session incorporating under-graduate, post-graduate and staff, where students from the school can speak with staff about interests, research and their work.
- Prof. Zizzo suggested a mini-talk series with 3-4 PhD students who could provide 5-10 minutes small talks to students, providing insight into the exciting things happening in the School of Economics. Prof. Zizzo noted this may be harder to organise pending PhD student volunteers.
- Joe mentioned that a drop-in session in the Student Hub space once a week might increase discussions and visibility, especially with students returning to internal classes.
- John commented that Bec has been monitoring the space, and it could provide an opportunity for a young alumni event where students can see and learn about the industry from someone a few years older.
- Prof. Zizzo commented that there may be the opportunity for an event where there is a link to the honours students who could discuss their projects, and this may serve to potentially promote the honours program to the student body. John furthered that this could form a three-minute thesis style event with a short project presentation and then subsequent discussion, noting this is something the school wants to build in students.

5.2) Tutor Selection Process

Lachlan provided the Committee with a summary of prior events regarding tutor selection process timing, whereby it often occurred post-Semester 2 exams in the summer break. Lachlan identified that this may be quite restrictive for students undertaking summer programs or internships, raising the point of potential timing alteration.

- Joe reiterated the current timeframe (1-2 weeks following Semester 2 exams), noting that if students are unable to attend, they are ineligible, which significantly reduces the selection pool. Joe commented that this year the School has extended eligibility to allow students from different programs and majors to apply to tutor.
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- Joe queried if you needed to reapply or if you stayed in the tutor pool once accepted. Ian commented that once you are in the tutor pool you do not need to reapply again.
 - Jeff queried if there was any flexibility in extending the process to minimise great students in the programs missing out. Ian raised the point that there are issues with mid-semester break as people are largely away again.
 - Joe commented that the current considerations would all require an element of compromise, as in-semester meant finding space was a challenge, and SWOTVAC was when students were preparing for exams.
 - Prof. Zizzo queried if the process could be spread out more, commenting this would lower the risk, and noting this is a matter to be brought offline with Erik.
 - Jeff commented that multiple sessions would be good to provide more chances for student attendance, noting it was originally condensed to ensure the same hurdle for all students but may not be necessary if tutoring is opened to broader student body.

5.3) SSLC Student Engagement

Lachlan introduced how there has been limited traction with the SSLC from the student body, and that the Committee was seeking new outreach methods to increase engagement.

- Abbey commented that implementing the drop-in sessions in Student Base that Joe mentioned could be useful.
- Sam noted that society engagement was a large factor, whether that be PPE or ES, it can be very helpful for societies to put out a post.
- Prof. Zizzo commented that general advertising of SSLC at the beginning of the year is helpful. Prof. Zizzo noted that it may be useful to have committee members do a short 2-3 minute appearance at the beginning of Semester 1 in large economics courses.
- Albert commented that there is lacking awareness in the younger cohorts, and it may be useful to target orientations e.g. BAFE orientation or participate in the UQES first year event. Jeff agrees this would be helpful especially for students studying dual- or mixed- programs.

5.4) Any other business matters?

Ziqi Zhang identified that in ECON7300 the course coordinator was unwell resulting in the course being paused for 2 weeks, with numerous students in the course contacting the School, however, no clear answer was provided. Ziqi queried if there was any specific method for dealing with these kinds of situations to reduce the impact on students.

- Prof. Zizzo stated that unfortunately circumstances such as these may arise where Course Coordinators or lecturers are unable to attend, and there is a reserve lecturer for each course with a business continuation plan in place. Prof. Zizzo noted that there may be initial disruption given the short notice, but if there are any specific issues to contact Joe as additional support may be able to be provided.

Closed at 4:02pm

6. Actionable Before the Next Meeting

7. Next Meeting

Thursday, 12th September at 2:30pm.
