

Minutes

School of Economics

Student-Staff Liaison Committee

Date 18 March 2025 **Chairperson** Dominique Leong
Time 2:00pm – 3:00pm **Notetaker** Nishay Bhikha
Venue R629, School of Economics Boardroom, Colin Clark Building

Attendees:

Name	Organisation
Prof Daniel Zizzo	Academic Dean & Head of School
Prof Ian MacKenzie	Director of Learning & Teaching
Joe Symons	Manager, Student and Academic Administration
John Raiti	Learning Designer
A/Prof Jeffrey Kilne	Employability Officer
Albert Kim	Student Representative Member
Anupam Goel	Student Representative Member
Lachlan Armstrong	Student Representative Member
Ming Yin (Daniel) Ho	Student Representative Member
Raghav Chawla	Student Representative Member
Senura Sugathadasa	Student Representative Member
William Ilka	Student Representative Member

Apologies:

Name	Organisation
Samuel Weir	Student Representative Member
Shaakir Hameed	Student Representative Member

Item	Description	Action
1.	Welcome and Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dom opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Country and introductions from both the Chair and Secretary. Joe introduced himself as Manager of Student Experience. Daniel emphasised the importance of the SSLC and noted his consistent attendance at past meetings. John explained his role as a Learning Designer, noting that student feedback plays a crucial role in course design. Ian introduced himself as the Director of Teaching and Learning. Jeff spoke about his role in Employability and Learning
2.	Student Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senura: 2nd year BAFE student Daniel: Bachelor of Economics and Science student Lachie: Former Chair, 4th year Engineering and Economics student

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will: 3rd year BAFE student • Raghav: 3rd year student • Albert: 2nd year BAFE student
3.	Transition of Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dom raised concerns regarding excessive assessment loads. • John reported that for ECON1310, only 219 out of 719 attempted the quiz. Surveys showed only 39% of students felt confident about passing, and 75% had received little feedback. • Ian acknowledged this anxiety may stem from recent changes in assessment structure and stressed the need for a complementary first-year experience. • Joe noted that assessment for ECON1310 had been consolidated from 40 to 38 marks, and that programmatic assessment is a long-term goal. The school is aware of ongoing issues and is monitoring progress. • Dom provided background context on ECON1310 challenges.
4.	Assessment-Related Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dom raised concerns regarding excessive assessment loads. • John reported that for ECON1310, only 219 out of 719 attempted the quiz. Surveys showed only 39% of students felt confident about passing, and 75% had received little feedback. • Ian acknowledged this anxiety may stem from recent changes in assessment structure and stressed the need for a complementary first-year experience. • Joe noted that assessment for ECON1310 had been consolidated from 40 to 38 marks, and that programmatic assessment is a long-term goal. The school is aware of ongoing issues and is monitoring progress. • Dom provided background context on ECON1310 challenges
5.	SECaTs and Feedback Mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian mentioned the introduction of a new SECaT platform this year, to be reviewed at year-end. • Joe explained a glitch last semester but noted most courses still meet the 6-response minimum. • Will proposed that the UQES Economics booklet could help improve SSLC outreach. • Daniel reminded the committee that SECaTs aren't the only feedback tool and highlighted society-collected reviews (~10 per first-year course). Participation remains a challenge. • Dom reiterated the importance of structured and consistent feedback channels.
6.	Course Support and Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John noted a pooled module resource was available but underutilised. • Senura shared that many students were unaware of the resource, and tutorial times were inconsistent and poorly advertised. Suggested a mandatory weekly tutorial.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John agreed to review broken links and provide updated access. • Ian acknowledged the gap between ECON1310 and ECON2300 and said the new BEcon program (starting 2027) would address this. • Jeff/Jerry to liaise with Karl regarding lecture alignment. • Daniel referenced the science faculty's model with optional workshops and full lecture rooms—suggesting something similar for Economics. • John to share learning tools (e.g., W3Schools).
7.	Tutorial Quality and Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian said tutors should be reminded that they are facilitators, not lecturers. He will address issues such as time allocation and presentation limitations (e.g., not being allowed to write on the board). • Dom pointed out that many PPE and Economics exams favour discussion-based learning, and tutorials should reflect that. • Jeff said video walkthroughs and tutor training would improve tutorial effectiveness. • Ian agreed and encouraged tutors to create an environment where students feel safe to raise confusion points, building a stronger learning culture.
8.	Employability and Careers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dom suggested better promotion of Economics career opportunities. • Jeff confirmed communication was sent to course coordinators, but acknowledged the recent cyclone disrupted timing and delivery. • Daniel noted the importance of streamlining communication from WIL (Work Integrated Learning) to avoid overload.
9.	Timetabling Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raised by Joe: ECON1010 and PPE1 have a lecture clash—unacceptable for two compulsory first-year courses. • Daniel stressed the clash must be resolved. • Jeff to inform ECON1010 lecturer. • Joe clarified the PPE lecturer was inflexible, but there may be override options. • Resolution to be followed up.
