Minutes

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

School of Economics

Student-Staff Liaison Committee

Date	21 August 2025	**Chairperson**	Dominique Leong
Time	3:00pm – 4:00pm	**Notetaker**	Nishay Bhikha
Venue	R629, School of Economics Boardroom, Colin Clark Building		

Attendees:

Name	Position
Prof Daniel Zizzo	Academic Dean & Head of School
Joe Symons	Manager, Student and Academic Administration
John Raiti	Learning Designer
A/Prof Jeffrey Kilne	Employability Officer
Dr Suzanne Bonner	Program Lead BEcon
Dominique Leong	Chair, Student-Staff Liaison Committee
Nishay Bhikha	Secretary, Student-Staff Liaison Committee
Albert Kim	Student Representative Member
Ming Yin (Daniel) Ho	Student Representative Member
Senura Sugathadasa	Student Representative Member
William Ilka	Student Representative Member
Samuel Weir	Student Representative Member

Apologies:

Name	Position
Raghav Chawla	Student Representative Member

Item	Description	Action
1.	**Welcome** Dominique welcomed all to the third SSLC meeting of the year.	
2.	**Acknowledgement of Country**	
3.	**Minutes of the previous meeting held in August 2025 were taken as read and confirmed.**	
4.	**Items for Discussion** **4.1 Tutor and course coordinator communication** Nishay raised that there has been no communication between the course coordinator, or senior tutor, of ECON1050 with tutors. There were also errors in the course's ECP, particularly around learning activity dates. No communication was given to tutors and students about which weeks tutorials would be occurring near the Ekka public holiday. Both students and tutors were unsure of which weeks tutorials were to be held. This resulted in tutors running tutorials	

The University of Queensland
Brisbane QLD 4072 Australia
E n.bhikha@uq.edu.au
W uq.edu.au
ABN: 63 942 912 684
CRICOS Provider 00025B
TEQSA PRV12080

when there was supposed to be no planned learning activities. Furthermore, there had been no communication whatsoever with tutors regarding course content, course/tutorial handbooks, and question techniques.

Joe noted that this was not acceptable and that course coordinators should touch base and hold a meeting with tutors at the beginning of semesters.

Daniel Z stressed the importance for this issue to be resolved, particularly around clarification of learning activity dates.

Suzanne and Joe to contact the course coordinator and senior tutor.

4.2 SSLC Student Member Intake Rounds

Dominique mentioned that the SSLC Chair and Secretary are looking at doing semesterly intakes of student representative members for the SSLC. She stated that while at semester 2 BelFest, a lot of interested students approached the SSLC stall however, nothing was able to be eventuated as applications are currently only held at the beginning of the calendar year.

Daniel Z said that he sees no problem with having two intakes. He suggested that the SSLC's terms of reference should be consulted to see if there is any existing information regarding membership intake. Daniel also enquired about the selection process for student representative members.

Joe mentioned that he has been involved with the SSLC for a number of years. He noted that the Chair and Secretary run the selection process so there is no extra strain on staff. He raised some concern about the application process becoming too simple, where it could become vulnerable to exploitation where students may simply join for a semester and not contribute. Joe suggested that student members should commit to yearly terms regardless of the semesterly intake, and to make expectations clear in application proccesses regarding engaging with the committee. He also mentioned that it could be worthwhile to have more members involved in open days.

Joe to find terms of reference.

Dom and Nish to explore member intake options

4.3 Economics Employability Video

Dominique noted that instead of hosting an employability event the committee is looking to create a series of promotional videos with BEcon graduates that are currently working in non-traditional economics jobs.

Nishay mentioned that he is currently working in finance at an oral care company, where his manager graduated from BEcon at UQ. His manager has agreed to sit down for a video to answer some questions about how he uses his BEcon in day-to-day work in a non-traditional economics graduate space.

Dominique noted that this would be great engagement for economics at UQ, particularly for current and prospective students. She also mentioned that Joe had suggested applying for a Student-Staff Partnership (SSP) for this initiative, but that applications are not yet open until November.

	Daniel Z encouraged and supported this initiative, stated that it aligns well with the work done at the Economic Society of Australia (ESA) where they are producing podcasts about how economics goes beyond its traditional stereotypes. He noted that this would be an amazing initiative, supported the use of an SSP and suggested sharing of the video through UQ student societies and ESA's channels. Suzanne mentioned that young ESA is currently in the process of producing economics employability videos with the Big 4 so it would be wise to focus on non-traditional pathways. John mentioned that there was an SSP in the past lead by a student where they interviewed economics alumni and Carl Sherwood about his role in working with schools. John also noted that the careers and employability have some alumni contacts that work at non-traditional companies, such as Amazon. Joe strongly supported this idea, and noted that there are multiple benefits.	Dom and Nish to look into SSP for November, continue searching for alumni in non-traditional economics roles.
5.	**Items for Information** **5.1 Boarderless Hackonomics 2025** John mentioned that there is an upcoming economics hackathon run by the School, and that he would appreciate for it to be promoted amongst students. The last hackathon was run two years ago. This year, it is done in collaboration with other universities around the world. John asked for suggestions of where he could promote it. Dominique noted that student members would be able to spread the word, and to speak to Sophie McCulloch from economics engagement to see what she can do. Daniel Z noted that John could ask course coordinators to include a slide in their lectures promoting the hackathon. John said that would be a good idea, and that he would add a QR code to the slide for ease of access. Dominique noted that the SSLC has promoted materials through course coordinators/lecture slides and found it to be quite effective. Daniel Z mentioned that he has some contacts at Singaporean universities that he could be in contact with about possibly collaborating on the hackathon.	
6.	**General Business** **6.1 Use of Ed Discussion Boards** Daniel H raised a question requesting clarification of the use of Ed Discussion Boards in economics courses. He noted that the use of the discussion boards in economics courses was inconsistent, whereas in the School of Science use was consistent across all courses. Ian noted that the Ed Disucussion boards are used at the discretion of the course coordinator within SoE. He mentioned that some	

	courses may require the discussion space but some may not. He also noted that there may be minor downsides to Ed Disucussion boards as they could discourage students from coming to tutorials and/or consultations. John stated that the new version of BlackBoard—BlackBoard Ultra—has an improved question and answer system in comparison to its predecessor. This may be helpful for online discussions/questions. Ian noted there will eventually be a convergence and streamlining of systems overtime, which will hopefully result in a unique system. Howvever, there is a bit of a process to get to that stage.	
7.	Meeting Closed 3:42pm	