

Minutes

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
Dominique Leong	Chair, Student-Staff Liaison Committee
Nishay Bhikha	Secretary, Student-Staff Liaison Committee
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.	Apologies Apologies were given by Samuel Weir and Shaakir Hameed.	
2.	Acknowledgement of Country and Welcome Dominique 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 Z 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	

Minutes

3.	Minutes of the previous meeting held in November 2026 were taken as read and confirmed	
4.	SSLC Recruitment 2025 Dominique shared that the recent student member recruitment round received 32 applications overall, 25% post-graduate, 43% international, 10 students were the first in their family to attend university and 12 students were from a cultural and/or linguistically diverse background. Of these applicants, 12 were shortlisted for interviews, and 6 chosen as student reps. The members then introduced themselves. Senura: 2nd year BAFE student. Daniel H: Bachelor of Economics and Science student. Lachie: Former Chair, 4th year Engineering and Economics student. William: 3rd year BAFE student. Raghav: 3rd year student. Albert: 2nd year BAFE student.	
5.	Business Arising from Previous Meetings 5.1 Excessive Assessment Dominique noted previous concerns regarding excessive assessment loads in first year of BEcon, specifically ECON1310. 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. 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. Ian acknowledged this anxiety may stem from recent changes in assessment structure and stressed the need for a complementary first-year experience. Dominique provided background context on ECON1310 challenges and changes.	
6.	Items for Discussion 6.1 Course Feedback Timing (SECATS) and Feedback Mechanisms Dominique noted that timing of course feedback is currently only through SECATS at high-pressure times of the semester (semester ends). Students have raised concerns with this as they often do not have enough time or perceived impact to complete SECATS. 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 met the 6-response minimum. Will proposed that the UQES Economics booklet could help improve SSLC outreach. Daniel H noted that SECaTs aren't the only feedback tool and highlighted society-collected reviews (~10 per first-year course). Participation remains a challenge.	

6.2 Courses Utilising R Studio

Nishay noted student feedback has raised about first year and second year ECON coding courses, specifically ECON2300. Students noted a steep learning curve when utilising R Studios and did not feel adequately supported in that gap being bridged. Students have proposed additional generalised sessions.

John noted a pooled module resource was available but underutilised. John noted that some links in the resource were broken. Senura shared that many students were unaware of the resource, and tutorial times were inconsistent and poorly advertised. Suggested a mandatory weekly tutorial.

Ian acknowledged the gap between ECON1310 and ECON2300 and said the new BEcon program (starting 2027) would address this. Jeff to noted that it would be beneficial to liaise with Carl Sherwood regarding lecture alignment.

Daniel H noted the science faculty's model with optional workshops and full lecture rooms—suggesting something similar for Economics.

John to update links in pooled module resource.

6.3 Tutorial Design and Implementation

Nishay shared that student feedback on tutorials is negative, noting tutors run over the answers line by line rather than explaining background concepts and reasoning. There has been discussion surrounding alternate format, a combination of:

1. Online Recorded Learning Video where a tutor runs through small examples giving greater depth.
2. In-Person Tutorials where students can work through the questions having already

watched the online learning video.

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).

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.

6.4 Employability / Internship Opportunities

Dominique noted that students have expressed a lack of awareness and perceived accessibility to internships in the field of economics. Nishay suggested improved promotion of economics career opportunities through informative events.

Jeff noted that an economics employability event was held last week, but many students were unaware. He confirmed communication was

Minutes

sent to course coordinators, but acknowledged the recent cyclone disrupted timing and delivery.

Daniel Z noted the importance of streamlining communication from WIL (Work Integrated Learning) to avoid overload.

6.5 Other Business Matters

Dominique noted that Samuel had mentioned an oversight regarding the BPPE program, specifically for the current first year cohort. Joe expanded on this: ECON1010 and PPES1101 have a lecture clash—unacceptable for two compulsory first-year courses. Daniel Z stressed the clash must be resolved.

Jeff mentioned that he could let the ECON1010 lecturer know.

Joe noted that timetabling is conducted using a system, where the School of Economics has specified that certain lectures (such as ECON1010 and PPES1101) cannot clash. Changes in the PPES1101 lecturer's availability and flexibility after timetabling had been completed resulted in the clash.

Joe noted that the PPES1101 lecturer had not enabled delayed viewing for the course, and that offering a delayed viewing may provide some resolution.

Jeff to
notify
ECON1010
lecturer
regarding
clash.

Joe to
request
PPES1101
delayed
viewing.

7. Meeting closed 2:51pm.