School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

Cognitive Science

Staff Student Liaison Committee

Thursday, 16th February at 1pm

Room F29/30, 7 George Square

Present

Staff:
H. Rohde (SSLC Convener), P. Sturt

Students:
G. Copeland, A. Mowbray, E. Jones, A. Kersyte,

In Attendance:
M. Davidson (Minute Taking)

1. Apologies
A. Doumas, A. Greenwald

2. Report from SSLC Convenor
Report on the last couple of meetings
- Student-Staff Interaction
HR reminded the committee that to encourage student staff interaction there will be a workshop in the Festival of Creative Learning (FoCL) week called 'Themes of Cognitive Science' in an aim to unify themes across the four subject areas, there has only be 5 students that have sent sample essays so far.
- Timetable Clashes
HR has been working with Informatics to move Inf2a next year and it seems likely to go ahead.
- Intro to Cognitive Science Tutorials
Tutors are interested in having tutorials and labs, no one has said no yet, so this is a possibility.
-No Update on Cognitive Science – only tutorials
HR reported that she is still working on trying to get Cognitive Science only tutorials like Philosophy and Susan Hermiston from the Teaching Office is looking at how to set this up for next year.
AM it would be nice to have just a Cognitive Science group as there are 1st year students currently in his tutorial so the level is varied.
Another suggestion is to have the Cognitive Science students in the same tutorial groups as students on the degree of 'Philosophy' for example.
- Dissertation Timeline
In each subject area HR has been flagging what events are going on. Philosophy has a 0 credit course, so it might make sense for HR to flag this up to her tutees in 2nd year to sign up for the next year.
- Question about fees

In the last SSLC there was a worry about Cognitive Science students having higher fees than other degrees. HR investigated and Cognitive Science is more expensive due to having Labs, it is therefore matched in fees to any of the lab degrees such a Psychology.

3. Year 1 Reports and Feedback
G. Copeland reported that most students have been happy with everything so far. However there were some comments about the first assignment, a student's felt they did not have enough information before the assignment was assigned. Students feel they need extra practice as the tutorials were not too clear and the course can be a bit chaotic.

Students did not know how to use a particular function, so they had to rely on last year's knowledge.

It would be good to have remote access to Dice as many people are away for the FoCL, so would like to work on their assignment whilst at home. **Action:** HR to look into remote access for Dice.

No-one understood the perceptron lectures, as it is difficult to understand what the variables of the equations equate to.

4. Year 2 Reports and Feedback
A. Mowbray reported that in first year there is the Intro to Cognitive Science course which brings all the subject areas together. There is not a course like that in second year, so students are left on their own to try and bring it all together. It would be useful especially when choosing honours courses to have a course in second year similar to the concept of Intro to Cognitive Science.

HR stated that the event in FoCL (Themes of Cognitive Science), is going to use current essays and try to address themes that emerge across each essay/subject area. The idea would be to have more events like this to help link it all together.

Students are beginning to think about their honours course choices and are still confused about what the requirements are for honours.

HR responded that the only requirement is that students distribute 20 credits across 3 subject areas across year 3 and 4. The rest of the credits can be taken in any area. **Action:** HR will send out an email making this clear.

Action: SSO to check how the course selection form is distributed to Cognitive Science Students in all years.

5. Year 3 Reports and Feedback
Informatics have released projects for dissertations already, and the deadline for choosing a project in Cognitive Science is before the end of February. So students will have to make a decision before the rest of PPLS reveal projects.

HR replied that it is unlikely that the timing will change. But it might be a good idea to send out last year's projects so students have an idea and a list of the academic's interests.

In AI there is a large practical that many students are having difficulties with. Students have not got their results back yet and it was due before Christmas. Students found it difficult to get help from the lecturer and the feedback was minimal.

Once good things about the Informatics courses is that they published last year's feedback on courses, for students to read before choosing courses. **Action:** HR is going to look into something similar for PPLS and speak to J. McCulloch.

The cleaning of Forest Hill is appalling, sanitary bins/bins are overflowing. **Action:** SSO to report to Buildings and Facilities manager.

6. Year 4 Reports and Feedback
Nothing to report.

7. AOB.

8. Next Meeting – Thursday 30th March, 1 – 2pm in room s38, 7 George Square.