

Minutes: Staff Student Liaison Committee International Foundation Programme

11th November 2020



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
Centre for Open Learning

Present: Anya Clayworth (AC) Chair; Programme Director
Mostafa Abdollahi (MA) Programme Representative
Sofia Ye (SY) Programme Representative
Christy Feng (CF) Programme Representative

In Attendance: Nicola Dove (ND) Teaching Office Administrator – Assessment & QA

Start Time: 15:00
End Time: 15:45

1	Welcome / Agenda	AC
	AC convened the meeting at 15:00. AC welcomed all present and thanked all for attending.	
2	Minutes of last meeting	AC
	No minutes to review as this was the first meeting of the SSLC for 20/21	
3	Matters arising	AC
	No matters arising as this was the first meeting of the SSLC for 20/21	
4	Staff Items	AC
	<p>4.1 Programme Update</p> <p>AC provided the following summary to the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In week 8, students are working towards assessments and getting formative feedback.• All teaching and course content being online, due to Covid-19 restrictions, has been a challenge for all.• Students are currently going through the UCAS process. <p>4.2 COL QA procedures</p> <p>AC clarified the mid-course, SSLC and CEQ feedback options for students.</p>	
5	Student Items	SC

SC gathered feedback for the 6 courses below:

5.1 Introduction to Psychology

- Some students felt that the course was hard to follow and more explanation was needed from the tutor.
- Students felt that more explanation was necessary from the tutor regarding assessments.
- Quizzes can be difficult and often don't seem in line with course materials.
- PowerPoint slides often have grammar and spelling errors.

AC reminded students to check Learn pages for more information on the course and assessments.

AC noted that the tutor had recently uploaded additional explanations to the Learn page and asked if students had seen these and asked if they had been helpful. The reps confirmed that they had.

AC noted that some students had found the tutor spoke too fast and asked if there had been any improvement. The reps confirmed that there had been an improvement and the tutor was now speaking at a slower pace.

Action:	AC to check slides for grammar and spelling
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5.2 Introduction to Social Science

- Students feel that the course is hard to follow and they often don't catch the main points.
- Students would like a greater use of PowerPoint during discussions to help understanding – AC pointed out that this may not be done as it can be distracting.
- Tutors speak very fast so students struggle to keep up.
- Some students felt confused by assessment questions.

AC reminded students that recordings of lectures should be available to go back over to help understanding.

Action:	AC to speak to tutors about the possibility of more PowerPoint slides in discussions
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5.3 Introduction to Philosophy

- Readings can be quite hard to understand eg. Descartes
- Some students struggle to understand what the tutor means.
- Each teacher teaches in very different ways which some students are concerned about – wondering if there is an inconsistency in learning.

5.4 Living and Learning in Britain

- Some students felt that those who were in Edinburgh should be classed together – AC explained that this wasn't possible because classes were created based on where people were at the start of the course and due to regulations surrounding Covid-19 and keeping everyone safe classes had to stay as they were.

5.5 Introduction to Art and Design Practice

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students very happy with this course, they love it! <p>5.6 Foundation English for Academic Purposes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tutors are really good. Students like the course and it is helping their confidence with English. Some students would like the tutors to assign who goes in what breakout group as often the same students stay together. <p><u>General Comments</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More opportunities to socialise with peers outside of class time – AC suggested this would be something really good for the reps to arrange. Some students would like more mock exams. Some students would like more detailed feedback. Some students would like more regular assessment. Some students would like more opportunity to practice English – AC commented that there were quite a number of ways that students could be doing this but noted that perhaps students needed a reminder. 	
6	Any Other Business	ALL
	No other business.	
	Date of Next Meeting	AC
	<i>TBC</i>	
	<p>AC thanked all for their attendance and hard work.</p> <p>AC adjourned the meeting at 15:45</p>	