

Minutes
Cognitive Science SSLC

Thursday 11th October 2018, 11.30am – 1pm
DSB Room 4.01

In attendance: Dr Hannah Rohde, Zaida LaRose, Thomas Baruzzi, Clare Innes

Minutes: Michael Gray (MG), Student Support Officer

Convenor's Report

Introduction of the staff and students.

MG highlighted the absence of a 2nd and 3rd year class representative. It was suggested that a single email address be created to enable Cognitive Science students to provide feedback and allow class reps to glean information from the over all Cognitive Science cohort. This was accepted by the meeting.

Action: MG will arrange the creation of this e-mail address and circulate the details to the class reps.

Year 1 report

1. **Welcome Week/start of term** – Students have suggested that it would be helpful if The academic fair, course enrolment and personal tutor meetings didn't overlap. PT meetings could occur a bit earlier or the academic fair could be scheduled before course enrolment opens. Clearer instructions regarding course enrolment would be welcomed.
2. **Lack of cohesion** – It was highlighted that some students feel a Lack of cohesion between lecturers in Intro to Cognitive Science making the course feel disjointed at times. The class reps explained that it was helpful when lecturers recapped past concepts and linked them to new concepts making it easier to see the relevance and connections between topic.
3. **Time Management** –Some lecturers occasionally speed through lectures. It was highlighted that time management might be an issue. The student would like longer lectures of tutorials to cover the sometimes overwhelming amount of material that is occasionally jammed into 50 minute lectures.

Action: HR will flag this with the relevant members of staff.

4. **Programme direction** - Students would like more information about where the Cognitive Science program could lead in terms of postgraduate degrees and future jobs -especially when choosing outside courses.
5. **Lecturers expressing their views (e.g. political ones)** – There was much discussion around the use of excessive Donald Trump jokes during some lectures. The jokes could be perceived as offensive to some students. The meeting agreed that staff should be mindful of conflicting views and proceed respectfully.

6. HR mentioned that the Cognitive Science course is considering introducing a compulsory statistics course for all year 1 students. The rationale for this change is to ensure the degree remains flexible allowing Cognitive Science students the opportunity to transfer onto the psychology Hons degree with ease. The students felt that instead of making this compulsory the University should update DRPS to advise student to take a statistics course if they wish to keep the Psychology route of study open.

Year 4 report

1. Students would like to be informed of their graduation dates earlier if possible. This would enable graduating students to book transport/flights back to Edinburgh for both themselves and family as well as being able to know when they are free to work/travel/holiday next summer.
2. The 4th year cohort requested clarity on who was the head of the Cognitive Science Degree. HR confirmed she is the head of Cognitive Science.
3. **Mailing lists** – Some students were missed off the psych fourth year mailing list. This could have been detrimental as it had important information about dissertation. The issue has now been resolved.
Action: PPLS will double check student mailing lists to ensure students are not missed.
4. There was an issue with honours Cognitive Science students being allocated their course preferences however, this issue has now been resolved.

Minutes End.

Next meeting - Thursday the 8th of November 2018 – Room 4.01 DSB – 11.30am – 1pm