Minutes
Cognitive Science SSLC

Thursday 07th February 2019, 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.

Honours report

- Personal Tutors could be more suited towards students interests – Clare highlighted that it would be beneficial to students in Cognitive Science to be allocated a Personal Tutor that is knowledgeable in the student area of interest (Psy/Phil/LEL).

- BPS Accreditation - some students, despite completing all 5 subject areas within Psychology *and* doing a dissertation in Psychology, are not able to get BPS accredited simply because of the name of the degree. Hannah R will look into whether there is an application process for BPS Accreditation after graduating and if so she will cascade the information to all Cognitive Science 4th year students.

- Dissertations - Some supervisors dedicate more time to students than others which seems slightly unfair, perhaps there could be some drop-in session created in the future for people to bring along queries about dissertation content/**stats help**.

- 4th Year Cog Sci late Xmas dinner/Valentines dinner being currently arranged!

Pre Honours 1st and 2nd year report

- Students receive mixed messages in course content – some lecturers say the mind is like a computer, some say it is not. These messages are contradictory and confusing at times. It would be helpful to point out to students early in the degree (maybe during fresher's week) that they will get many viewpoints that may sometimes contradict each other. Let them know that the purpose of this is to introduce them to the wide range of perspectives in Cognitive Science so that when they enter Honours or pursue Cognitive Science in the future, it will be easier to form an idea of what paths to take.

- In Informatics 1, the assumption is made that all Students understand linear algebra and multivariable calculus. But that is not the case. More focus should be put on teaching the basics of linear algebra and the geometric interpretations so that students can have a clear understanding of how it applies to neural nets and so that everybody is on the same level and ready to overcome those initial fears and misconceptions for the sake of better understanding the bigger picture.

- Thomas highlighted that the Cognitive Science Programme Reps are organizing a feedback event alongside the LEL Programme Reps.

- Some students might benefit from an explanation that their degree is flexible and the pre-honours courses are taken to allow them to experience many different aspects of the course so they learn what they like and what direction they want to move towards. This might help reassure many students that find specific courses challenging or not interesting.

- It would be great if "Introduction to Cognitive Science" could adopt the "Informatics 1" method of submitting assignments through Jupyter instead of exporting the homework into other file formats. Students highlight this would make handing work in easier.

- It was highlighted that student would like to know more about the reasoning behind the degree structure, for example why Cognitive Science students take Logic alongside Informatics 1 alongside LEL 1A etc?

- Some academic have been critical of student using laptops in place of taking hand written notes in lectures. There was some discussion around how students learn differently and should be free to take notes in the format they find the most effective.

- Lecture recordings – It was highlighted that the university should focus on providing all the resources necessary for learning and then allow students to choose freely how to use those resources while giving them guidance on best practice. Lecture recording can be useful for many students to revisit for revision. Students have different learning needs and learning strategies and an inclusive university should accommodate for all.

- There was a brief discussion regarding Cognitive Science staff on leave next year however, the details are still to be confirmed. More information will be available before the start of the next academic session.

The next Cognitive Science SSLC will be on the 14th March 2019 in room 4.01 DSB

Minutes End.