

School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

Cognitive Science

Staff Student Liaison Committee

Tuesday, 18 October 2016 at 1pm

Room G32, 7 George Square

Present

Staff:

H. Rohde (SSLC Convener), M. Pickering, A. Isaac

Students:

J. Peters, G. Copeland, A. Mowbray, C. Innes, E. Jones, B. Schick, A. Kersyte, A. Greenwald

In Attendance:

T. Taylor-Welch (Minute Taking)

1. Welcome from SSLC Convener

2. Apologies

H. Rabagliati, A. Dumas, J. Peters, G. Copeland

3. Year 1 Reports and Feedback

No comments to put forward for this year. No Year 1 Reps in attendance.

HR reported Year 1 students concerns about the parallel learning (labs not appearing to link in with lectures or tutorials).

All present agreed that the lab work is vital and that students should be reminded that they are being taught lab work early as a foundation to Year 2.

There was the suggestion that A. Dumas reminds students of this during the Introduction to Cognitive Science course.

4. Year 2 Reports and Feedback

Timetable clashes

Informatics 2A and Research Methods and Statistics (RMS) overlap, meaning students miss one lecture per-week in either course.

Both courses have their lectures recorded but many students recognise the importance of lecture attendance and its benefits.

AM reported to the meeting that A. Dumas is hoping to have an office hour every Wednesday afternoon to address the issue. Students affected are those on the CogSci BSc, Psychology (as a single or combined degree) and CogSci MA where students have selected Psychology.

HR has liaised with the Course Organisers in both Informatics and PPLS, and at some point one of the Organisers will have to move their 16:00 to 17:00 Tuesday lecture.

Study Abroad

There is a keen interest from students about studying abroad, but there is little information available.

HR informed the meeting that ERASMUS is one possibility, especially for the Language Science component of the CogSci degree. HR has spoken with Patrick Honeybone about this.

The practicality would be that students select courses from their host universities that are in keeping content-wise with the Hons degree courses that they would have taken here. HR stated that even if students complete three quarters of what they would otherwise be doing here in Year 3, they can catch up in their final year, undertaking the subject(s) missed whilst abroad.

Action: MD (Check SYMPA for Year 2 and 3 Class Reps, as students didn't get the email that they'd sent to the cohort.)

Action: HR check with Patrick Honeybone that students don't have to adhere to the requirements that the other Degrees have in place that are more prescriptive.

HR to then also communicate the flexibility of the CogSci study abroad (once Patrick has confirmed) and the fact that the prescriptive requirements that the other subject areas have do not apply so students can ignore this.

Action: MD to check the PT allocation for CogSci students

HR confirmed that it's not possible to study abroad for a single semester. The reason behind it is because the academic years can be different and so there's the danger of missing out on key study.

5. Year 3 Reports and Feedback

Timetable clash for Informatics students (Computational Science clash with other Psychology courses). Informatics is working on moving some of those clashing courses for next year.

Course Choices

Lack of Information from Informatics regarding course selection, with Informatics staff solely using PATH, rather than emailing students over late Spring/early Summer with a list of available courses for students to select and submit. Students aren't familiar with this aspect of PATH and have struggled with signing up for courses and receiving assistance from the Informatics Teaching Office.

Uploads for all Informatics courses then take place at the end of Teaching Week 1.

Action: HR to Liaise with Informatics to find out whether they're in transition or whether they're sticking to PATH.

AI informed the meeting that Philosophy treats CogSci students with parity and they now get the Course Sign-up form that Philosophy students get. This was as a result of the Cognitive Science SSLC in January 2016 where a request was put in for this to be implemented, ideally in all subject areas.

6. Year 4 Reports and Feedback

Exchange Possibilities (Covered in Year 3 Item)

Action: HR and AK to work on notes to give to outgoing students/those thinking of studying abroad

Fortnightly seminar for Cognitive Science Students of all years

Masters students have fortnightly meetings that the undergraduate students are keen to attend, if possible. Resources permitting, AI felt that it would make sense for pre-Hons level students to piggy-back onto these.

Degree book

HR has a web space that she hopes Year 4 students discuss how they worked their way through the degree programme; HR will edit the space. In doing this, there will be a number of (viable) pathways on record.

The book will include:

- Course Choices – Requirements for 1st & 2nd year and pre-requisites for 3rd & 4th years.
- Information about course selection deadlines

7. AOB.

No further business was discussed and the meeting agreed to discuss any issues that had not been covered at the next meeting.

8. Next Meeting – Tuesday 22nd November 2016, 1 – 2pm in G32, 7 George Square.