

# School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

## Cognitive Science

### Staff Student Liaison Committee

Tuesday, 22 November 2016 at 1pm

Room G32, 7 George Square

#### Present

##### Staff:

H. Rohde (SSLC Convener), D. Ward, A. Isaac

##### Students:

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

##### In Attendance:

M. Davidson (Minute Taking)

#### 1. Welcome from SSLC Convener

HR is looking at fixing timetables for classes next year.

Year abroad applications have now been organised and sent on.

HR has asked Year 4 students to discuss how they worked through the degree programme but there has only been one entry so far. Once there are more entries, HR will edit the space to provide pathways for other students to look at.

There has been no progress as yet to making a handbook for Cognitive Science students, but it should begin to materialise over time.

#### 2. Apologies

A. Dumas, M. Sprevak, J. Peters

#### 3. Year 1 Reports and Feedback

##### Labs

Students do not like how the labs are taught as it is too independent. Students would like more programming lectures and more discussion on the topic.

HR will talk to Patrick Sturt, the instructor involved in the computational component of the course, about designing some of the labs so that there is more discussion. **(Action)**

AM stated that in LEL there are videos that help students to understand the topic, like a technical walk through rather than students being left to their own devices.

A particular tutor has helped other staff make videos for something similar, so perhaps he would be able to help for the programming course.

### Programming Assignment

Students feel that the programming assignment is too much of a leap, and it is not accessible. There is one specific question in the maths section that no one can really do.

There was a different assignment last year, with less maths, so this year shouldn't be too much harder. However, the second year class reps reported that last year, students found the second programming assignment very difficult.

HR suggested making the first assignment harder so that it doesn't feel like there is too much of a leap. HR will mention the struggle to the tutors. **(Action)**

It would be helpful to have more lab time, to have more time where students can work on their assignment in the lab.

## 4. Year 2 Reports and Feedback

### Mailing List

SSO will look into adding Student Reps as moderators, so that they can distribute the emails out on the day that they intend it to go out. **(Action)**

### Cognitive Science Only Meeting

Students would like to have a meeting or lecture with just Cognitive Science students, because everyone is on so many different courses, it would be good to have contact with the other students on Cognitive Science.

New students that transferred onto the course, feel the same, so there is a need for it from other students.

In Philosophy there are mandatory pre-honours philosophy courses, and there are tutorials where there are just Philosophy students, this gives them a chance to discuss things further and meet other students that are on their course.

A brief Introduction to Language tried to do this for just Cognitive Science students but it didn't work well as there were so many students swapping classes' last minute due to clashes.

HR it would be a good idea to look into it, even for Psychology 2b and Logic 1 for next semester. **(Action)**

It needs to be set up through the Teaching Office as a different link needs to be available and the Cognitive Science students need to know about it.

A Cognitive Science only tutorial group would have a better structure for Cognitive Science students as they would be able to draw on the links between subject areas. It would also be good to have a tutor taking the class that would help to broaden the knowledge for Cognitive Science students.

## The Big Picture

All the subject areas within Cognitive Science have intertwined at some point but there is no way to show the link.

HR suggested that it may be a good idea to bring Cognitive Science students together after an assignment has been completed to read other students essays in different disciplines.

Psychology have the 'Big Picture' lectures, which brings together everything that has been taught, something similar for Cognitive Science would be good.

It is hard to know what the common thread is in the each of the different disciplines, because Lecturers don't know the content of each other's lectures.

It may be useful to have a course on Learn for Cognitive Science students to enable discussion so students can see what topics are being taught in different disciplines. It might also help to ask students to submit and share a piece of coursework from each discipline.

Another thought was to have a Cognitive Science student from each subject sum up what is in each course, maybe after each block a student could volunteer to briefly summarise what they have just studied.

HR will look into this and come back to this by the beginning of Semester 2. **(Action)**

## 5. Year 3 Reports and Feedback

### Dissertations

Students are worried about dissertations and the dissemination of information about dissertations as they are worried that they will not be on the correct mailing list.

HR will check with each subject area to see when they will start disseminating information on dissertations so students know when to look out for the relevant emails. There is a dissertation conference at the end of the year, that everyone will be alerted to. **(Action)**

Cognitive Science students are supposed to make a connection between two disciplines in their dissertations but then students sign up for one subject area with a specific supervisor. Therefore it is difficult to have depth in two areas, so HR believes that students shouldn't stress about this connection between two subject areas, hopefully the dissertation topic chosen will naturally have a connection across two disciplines.

In Philosophy there is a 0 credit preparation course in third year to prepare students. Cognitive Science students who choose a Philosophy dissertation will be signed up to this course but for students that do not get the chance to take the course it would be good to have similar information in a handbook.

### Psychology

The blocks are really confusing because all other courses are done by semester, also there is one course that only has one assignment at the end of the block worth 100% at the end of the block.

HR will speak to Psychology about the issues above. **(Action)**

## **6. Year 4 Reports and Feedback**

### **Mailing Lists**

Mailing lists are an issue as sometimes students are missed of mailing lists and sometimes students are on lists they should not be on, for example a student is only taking Linguistic courses, but she is on mailing lists across all departments.

### **Fees**

For Cognitive Science students that fees are set at laboratory level, not the same level as the rest of the course in PPLS. So there is a difference of £5000 for International students.

HR will look into the fees issue. **(Action)**

## **7. AOB.**

Students feel there is too much email traffic.

Students feel that Student Notebooks are great and very useful.

## **8. Next Meeting – Semester 2 Thursday**