School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences

Psychology MA and BSc

Student Staff Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 2 February at 12.30pm

Room S.38, 7 George Square

Present : Dr Alexa Morcom (Chair), Dania Abu-Sharkh (Year 3 Rep'), Dr Kasia Banas (Snr Teaching Coordinator), Dr Dave Carmel (Year 4 Course Organiser) Laura Cobban (Co-Chair and Year 4 Rep'), Dr Martin Corley (Head of Department) Robert Dudek (Year 1 Rep'), Taranah Gazder (Year 2 Rep), Dr Michelle Luciano (Year 3 Course Organiser), Megan McDougall (Year 4 Rep'), Alexandra McGregor (Year 3 Rep'), Dr Adam Moore, (Year 1 Course Organiser) Dr Rene Mottus (Year 2 Course Organiser) Dr Eva Murzyn (Teaching Coordinator), Eliina Takala (Year 2 Rep') Aleksandra Tkacz (Year 1 Rep')

In attendance: Mrs Tamsin Taylor-Welch (Minute Taker)

A. Morcom welcomed the meeting and reminded the Committee that it's a shared chairing procedure with Laura Cobban and Megan McDougall co-chairing.

1.   News:

Plans for Social Events (Yr3 Pub Quiz 9 Feb, Yr4 dinner), BPS Conference

A. Morcom reported the sold-out pub quiz, and the 4th year dinner on 30 March.

R. Mottus informed the meeting of the 2nd year treasure hunt 16 February (preceded by the prep for the hunt) and the PPLS Ball.

British Psychological Society (BPS) Conference is this year to be hosted by Psychology University of Edinburgh. Hons students (4th years in particular, per the BPS request) have been encouraged to go, as it will be beneficial for those working on their dissertations. A careers fair is to also be incorporated.

Action: K. Banas will provide slide advertising the BPS Conference to be uploaded

Marking Criteria

A. Morcom reported that she and Morag Donaldson have been working on a new Psychology marking criteria scheme. This will be passed to students for their comment.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 17 November 2016 - Matters Arising from the minutes

Basement Lab Usage

Staff agreed that tutors are to direct those in years 2-4 to corner cubicles when 1st year labs are taking place so as to avoid interruption on both sides.

PG Application Information for Yr4

This session ran the week of 23 January, with some 50 students attending. This was in direct response to an e-mailing by the 4th year reps.

Feedback in Yr1

A. Moore spoke to markers to ensure more consistency in the quantity and structure of feedback and K. Banas liaised with tutors about this.

Timetables and Yr1 Tutorials

M. Avraam still trying to liaise with timetabling regarding incorporating this into PATH so as to ensure that all tutorials, labs and lectures appear on student's records.

Yr1 Tutors in Labs

It was confirmed that Tutors have been asked to be more proactive in approaching students at labs, and offering feedback and advice. The students have also been advised that they are always welcome to ask for feedback in labs.

3. Year 4 Reports and Feedback

Psychology of Counselling

The issues surrounding this course are being addressed by Exam Board.

Careers seminars and PG prep' session

There has been very positive feedback from students regarding this.

Recordings of Lectures

Reps asked about lecture recording. Staff pointed out that there's a School level process about the recording of lectures and a clear way forward still needs to be ironed out (locations without the recording facilities, technical support etc.).

An important issue which may concern students as well as staff is that recordings may include students asking questions – possibly making incorrect statements – or personal experiences may be discussed and potentially replayed in future. There is a more general worry about recording impeding interaction between staff and students.

M. Corley reported it's fine for students to bring in their own recording devices and shouldn't be shy about reminding staff to use their mics.

Action: Class Reps to update their cohort on these issue and the ongoing process of deciding how and when to use recordings in Honours teaching.

4.   Year 3 Reports and Feedback

Print out of Literature Review and FeedbackMS2 lab sheets

Students had reported to the Reps that feedback on drafts had been provided at different times by different supervisors, either before or after the break between semesters.

There was uncertainty about what was required by many students, and A Morcom reported some students expected to do a Systematic Review (unlike in the past) as they now have a lecture on that in Year 2.

All those present at the meeting agreed that, as with the Critical Analysis course, a generic lecture for all students to attend before starting their reviews would be helpful, to supplement the information given in the Handbook.

Action: M. Luciano to draw up a lecture

Students were reassured by M. Corley that Supervisors will have different requirements as regards what should be implemented, because areas of Psychology differ. So long as students follow the requirements as stipulated by their Supervisor they have nothing to worry about.

M. Corley queried whether progressive release is preferable to holding feedback until a set date.

Both Reps reported so long as there's a **set date for when feedback *must* be back with students** then progressive release is reasonable.

Action: M. Luciano to check on existing deadline, making sure that it's reasonable and then publicizing it to academic staff **and** students.

D. Carmel reported that only 50% of some groups submitted a literature review draft for feedback and the quality   was mixed. Students reported that a series of deadlines impacted on this, acknowledging a time management issue was also at play, but that this was the   reason.

Group Project Draft Timing

The deadline for this is in 3 to 4 weeks and there's concern about obtaining sufficient data, and working with that in time to submit.

M. Luciano reported that this is the first time that feedback has been offered to students. When considering deadlines, staff set what they consider a reasonable deadline. Had the deadline been later, it would impact the academics and the work they need to undertake prior to returning marks to Course Secretaries.

There's the caveat that Supervisors will accept later drafts (though acknowledge less time for revision). M. Luciano informed the meeting that Supervisors will be encouraged to look at incomplete or slightly late complete work. M. Luciano reported that students have been notified that Tom Booth will provide assistance with R Code.

RMS2

Marks not in as yet, but it could be due to an issue with EUCLID.

Action: A. Morcom to investigate.

5.   Year 2 Reports and Feedback

Psychology 2B

Psychology 2B course: Reps reported that students were pleased to have received feedback on the lab and tutorial reports **before** submission of the next piece of work. Students had acknowledged that this was positive progress.

6.   Year 1 Reports and Feedback

Reps reported that nobody had come forward with comments so they could only presume that all was well.

9.   Any Other Business

No other Business was presented to the meeting.

Next meeting: The FINAL SSLC meeting of the academic year! Thursday 16 March, room S38 between 12h30 and 14h00.