SPORTS AND EXERCISE SCIENCE STUDENT STAFF LIAISON COMMITTEE

Thursday 16 March 2017, 1pm, Room TC1.11

Attendees:

Miss Katherine Chinery (Final Year Rep, SES), Dr Paul Freeman (Final Year Organiser), Dr Valerie Gladwell (Year 2 Organiser), Dr Murray Griffin (Course Director), Mr Max Shukla (Year 2 Rep, SES), Mr Gavin Nayler (Year 1 Rep, Sports Performance and Coaching), Miss Josie Pinfold (Final Year Rep, SES, Chair), Mrs Mel Wiltshire (in attendance).

Apologies: Brett Baxter (Final Year Rep), Dr Jo Barton (Year 1 Organiser), Stephanie Skeet (Year 1 Rep).

Minutes of the meeting held on 28.11.16

29/16 Minutes of the meeting held on 28.11.16 agreed as a true and accurate record.

Action points from meeting on 28.11.16

9/16 PF reported that an event for final year students to meet with ex-students took place but this was not well-attended. MT will be producing information on Masters opportunities and advertising for the new MSc at Essex

10/16 Review of BS216/placement information will take place over the summer when VG plans to carry out a more comprehensive review of the module. VG has requested that the Year 2 rep liaises with his year group for feedback – what works in the module, what doesn’t work, what content would students like included? VG would also welcome feedback from Year 3 students/reflection on the degree scheme as a whole. Year 3 reps reported that they felt it would be useful to have more practice at working essays as assessment in Year 2 is largely by SPF.

13/16 Research content of BS216. As outlined above, this module will be reviewed over the summer.

Library Facilities and Resources

30/16 VG asked reps if they were satisfied with the level of access to journal articles. Year 1 rep feedback was that journal article access was appropriate, Year 2 rep feedback was that students are largely continuing to use Year 1 textbooks and although they had used the library, they were unsure how best to locate resources. Year 3 feedback was that journal article access was appropriate and that they had also developed skills for obtaining papers that were not readily available (e.g. checking for hard and electronic copy in the library, setting up a ResearchGate account, contacting authors via e-mail). The group agreed that the current library sessions in Year 1 welcome week and Year 3 project day were adequate.

Curriculum Review
MG reported that a review of the existing curricula for SES and SPC is planned for next academic year with the development of the new School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Science. This may, for example, provide an opportunity to streamline provision in certain areas.

MG reported the following changes to provision for next academic year:

BS155 will be removed from the SPC structure. It will be replaced with a 15-credit anatomy and physiology module to allow space for BS156 to expand to 30-credits and therefore increase the coaching content of Year 1.

BS377 will move to coursework only, meaning that there are no final year exams for SES students.

The teaching content for BS376 will be frontloaded into the first few weeks of the autumn term.

**Year 1 Feedback**

GN reported that SPC students currently felt that there was little distinction between the SES and SPC degrees. SPC students are often grouped as ‘SES’ in listings etc and the cohort feel that the group therefore lack a distinct identity.

GN reported that the SPC cohort felt that the professional skills module was not explicitly related to coaching and that the presentation component could have more of a coaching slant.

**Action: JB to review with students**

GN reported that the SPC cohort were concerned about their preparedness for Year 2 in terms of coaching experience. Within the group, there are both experienced coaches and students who are relatively new to coaching. It was suggested that it might be useful to have a requirement that students gain some coaching experience prior to starting the course such as a Level 1 coaching qualification.

GN reported that students are struggling to hear FH in the biomechanics lecture and that the lecturer is not using a microphone.

**Action: MG to follow up with FH**

**Year 2 Feedback**

MS reported that the cohort felt it would be beneficial to have more preparation for writing SPFs. The cohort is aware of the expected format but unclear about the correct academic writing style. In response to this MG reported that final year students have been given formative feedback opportunities this year and there is the aspiration to extend this to highly weighted assignments in Year 2. Year 3 reps fed-back that they had found they
became familiar with SPF writing through journal reading and practice. VG suggested it would be beneficial to review the spread of coursework assignments in Year 2 to ensure that the timings of deadlines for similar assignments allow for students to receive feedback prior to submission of the next piece of work.

38/16 MS reported that the cohort were concerned that they had been advised by a member of academic staff that the Year 1 statistics teaching was ‘wrong’ and that students were anxious that they needed to start again with their learning in this area. MG reported that the statistics teaching in Year 1 is being reviewed and clarified that the Year 1 teaching focuses on p-values and that subsequent years would expand on this foundation knowledge. MG reported that coursework is moderated in Years 2 and 3 and a review of marks would take place should it be evident that all students had struggled to grasp a particular concept.

**Action:**
1) Review of Year 1 statistics teaching
2) MG to send clarification e-mail to Year 2 students

39/16 MS queried whether it would be possible to undertake a term abroad rather than a year abroad. MG requested that it is demonstrated that there is a demand for this from students as this is likely to be complicated to implement.

**Year 3 Feedback**

40/16 Both final year reps reported that they had primarily positive feedback to give. While it was acknowledged that Year 3 involves a lot of self-directed study, the group were very appreciative of the regular communication from CC, PF and CMc.

41/16 Both reps reported that the feedback received from CC had been excellent. VG requested that the reps provide details of what makes excellent feedback so that this can be shared with the teaching team more widely. The speedy return of feedback was also appreciated.

42/16 Both reps reported that they had received negative feedback from the cohort that Year 3 assessment is entirely by essay. It was noted that there was a late change to the assessment for BS370 to an essay and the teaching team agreed that the balance and variety of assessments offered needs to be reviewed.

**Action:** PF as year organiser

**National Student Survey/Student Satisfaction Survey**

43/16 MG reported that all but 6 students had completed the NSS and extended his thanks to students for completing the survey. The feedback provided is highly appreciated.

**Any Other Business**

44/16 MG noted that the SES Society is currently operated primarily by final year students and that involvement from students in other year groups will be required. Katherine White will be taking over from James Knights but it was noted that involvement from Year 1 and 2 reps
would be beneficial as the society provides another means of communication with peers and teaching staff. MG reported that progress had been made in relation to purchasing kit. VG suggested that the society should also consider if they want to have an academic component too, for example staff delivering seminars on specific topics. MG encouraged students to provide immediate feedback should issues arise and to not feel that the SSLC meeting is the only forum for feedback.

Date and time of next meeting

45/16 Group agreed that it would be good to have a social event, potentially on the last day of the final year project talks. MG requested that the reps identify an appropriate date and approach the School for funds for refreshments.