Centre for Psychoanalytic Studies

PGT/PGR Student Staff Liaison Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9 March 2016

Present: Matt ffytche (Chair), Fiona Gillies (secretary), Sue Kegerreis (Course Director MA Psychodynamic Counselling (MAPC) and Graduate Diploma Psychodynamic Approaches), Dr Kevin Lu (Course Director, MA Jungian & Post Jungian Studies), Andrew McIntosh (SU Rep), Leonardo Nascimento (Course Director, MA Psychoanalytic Studies)

Student reps present: Fatima Ahmed (MA Ref. Care), Anusnidha (PG Research), Josef Kala (MAJ), Elelia Ferro (Grad dip Psychodynamic Approaches),

Apologies: Chris Tanner (Course Director MA MOD), Rachel Phillippo-Green (MAPC), Cat Daylyn (2nd year MAPC)

1. Apologies:

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting:
The minutes were approved.

3. Matters Arising
Mf spoke about the MA Refugee Care concerns about the readings, Zuhura Mahamed is working on this. All other matters had been dealt with.

4. Reports from constituencies

MA Jungian and Post-Jungian Studies
Josef Kala reported that the group raised their concerns regarding the essays deadlines all within two weeks of each other. They are also unhappy that they have not been able to meet Professor Andrew Samuels, as he has been on sabbatical. They thought it would be helpful to have a glossary of terms/definitions of concepts at the beginning of the year. JF said a few of them were going to get together and write a report on things that may be helpful to change for the future. KL explained things have been difficult to change recently due to resources and study leave as KL is the only one holding the MA together, and is difficult to make big changes whilst working alone, however they are looking at updating the materials/readings. KL will welcome the receipt of their report.

MA Refugee Care
Fatima said that she had given her full report to Renos and Zuhura and they had discussed many of the issues. FA reported verbally that there had been issues with the Tavistock placements. FA also mentioned that all essays due in together. It was reported how beneficial it had been since Zuhura Mahamed had joined the staff team, it had improved student satisfaction.

JK and students

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**Research report**
Anu reported the noise issue again around music practice in rooms around the CPS research student rooms. Debbie Stewart was told by Estates/Security that students can go to any room not booked, that is why not always known who is in which room. Andrew McIntosh from the Students Union reported noise was an ongoing project that the SU were investigating. They want PhD students to have access to the best facilities the University can offer. AM felt that the info DS had been told by Estates/Security was incorrect and their policy for societies was that they must book a room. AM was going to look into this further. Anu also mentioned that Tom had not received his movable screen attachment.

**Graduate diploma Psychodynamic Approaches**
Elelia Ferro reported that the group would like more information on Careers and accreditation. She said it would be helpful to speak with others students who had previously completed the course. SK replied that this could be arranged and had been thought about, and she would pursue for future. It was said that the assignments all come together and they were disappointed there was a delay in getting their case study marks back to them. EF reported the Psychodynamic observation module was not made very clear and they were unsure about the marking criteria. SK replied that all this was outlined in the handbook and had been raised and discussed. MF suggested that this could be talked about in class in more depth. EF said emotions are high but the quality of teaching and marking is good. EF reported students felt ‘Accreditation’ is like the elephant in the room. SK has been trying hard to gain clear information from the BACP to report back to students, but had been unsuccessful so far and that this was a big concern for her. MF suggested a lecture on Careers.

**MA Psychoanalytic Studies**
No report submitted or course rep present.

**MA Management and Organisational Dynamics**
No report or presence at meeting by rep or director.

**MA Psychodynamic Counselling**
A 1st and 2nd year student rep report had been received. In summary the 1st year report stated:
- Generally, the cohort is happy and gaining a great deal from the course. For those that attended the GRC it was felt that the weekend was very well organised, and that the venue was excellent. Although everyone’s experience was unique, generally the GRC was felt to be a powerful learning opportunity and conference members left with much to process.
- Readings could be more current.
- Assessments due in close together.
- The group doesn’t find the time allocation of breaks during the Tuesday afternoon/evening very helpful.
It was reported this term has proved a real challenge for the student group and the current changes to the group membership is providing further challenge. The group is, overall, finding the content and structure of the course stimulating and rewarding.

2nd year report summary:

- This term’s topics helped prepare us for work in schools more emphasis on safeguarding and assessments for children going to CAMHS and report writing would be helpful.
- There was little direct linking or keeping in mind the coursework essay throughout the actual seminars and this may have been helpful for students to then prepare for writing the essay and understanding what was required.
- PA964 Essay title woolly and hard to understand.
- Order of readings for the autumn and spring modules to be reconsidered. Having assessments, parent work and working with school staff in first year would be more helpful.
- Having same room would be preferable.

SK reported she will go back to her team and take comments on board.

PGT & PGT ARC papers
MF explained what these were and asked if anyone had any comments that would like to make comment on, to please do so. FG to give Anu a copy of the PGR ARC.

AOB
JK stated that the students had enjoyed the field trip KL had organised to SAP and Wellcome library and they would like to have more field trips incorporated into their study. LN said he is planning to organise a field trip in the Summer term (as happened last year) to the Freud Museum etc., where all CPS students will be invited.