DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

Meeting of the Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting (SSLC)

Wednesday 21st January 2015
1.30-3pm
Common Room

Minutes

Attendees

Chair
Professor Lawrence Ezrow

PGT Student Representative
Keshab Giri (Absent)

International Relations
Chelsea Watson (Absent)
Maria (Flor) Fernandez Mego

Conflict Resolution
Recep Onursal

POPB
Arthur Hunter

IDA
James Fox

Political Theory
Zach Sherburne

Political Economy
Luis Mejia Lopez

Political Science
Hasna Azmi Fadhilah

Graduate Administrator
Alex West

For Discussion

Matters Arising

1. Apologies for Absence

2. What is going well?
   - All seems to be ok

3. Improvements since last meeting
   - Facebook page has been set up by Keshab and Luis, though this may be better in a different format (set up as a group at the moment).
   - The PhD scholarship meeting took place – was very negative and not very useful as the students felt they were being told to study elsewhere. – Reassured that we do want to recruit from Masters Pool.
   - PGT trip planning is in motion
   - GV958 was taken care of by the Education Director last term – students feeling more engaged.
   - IR class also ok since last meeting (regarding class size) where changes were made to include extra classes.
   - Next regular coffee and cake will take place on 6th Feb – also welcoming new staff Nicola Rowley and Katie Sellens.

4. ARC (Annual Review of Courses) comments
Contradiction between comments – states in the student satisfaction part that 45% are unhappy with the University but the comments overall are positive.

Some irrelevant questions e.g. Students Union. Unfortunately these are ‘standard’ questions.

5. Political Economy Agenda Items

- The group are NOT happy but are in a better position than previously now that the coursework weighting has been agreed.
- Lecturer is much more open and they have been meeting with him in his office hours and responding well to emails.
- Much more talks, sharing of papers etc to help understanding complexity of the models.
- General issues with organisation of the lecture – Not clear when lecturer speaks so not easy to follow – perhaps using slides like Economics do would be beneficial.
- Additional class or lab should be included as with GV900/GV903 – would help to enrich knowledge. This term the class have been using the lecturers office hours as another lab session. – chair suggests that as it is a very small class and the department are stretched it makes sense to make use of the office hours. Appointing a GTA is not so easy anyway so the intermediate solution would be to continue in this fashion. Other students who use office hours in this way (GV909) feel this is very beneficial for them and recommend it also.
- Chair recommends perhaps next year an extra lab and slides would be a good idea if the lecturer feels it is appropriate.

6. Political Science Agenda Items – Hasna Fadhilah

- Essex Summer School – Mel has provided a link which is not clear – need to speak with Mel regarding Summer School, we can’t help. If Mel can’t help the PGT Director may be able to speak with her but best to go direct to the Summer School.
- Exam schedule – release date will be end of March, centrally organised so will have to keep checking.
- Assignment feedback – needs addressing with individual lecturers, if continues to be an issue (short feedback, not useful, not clear) then speak again with PGT Director and he will try to address the problem.
- Seminar Info – No email was sent to let know that the seminar was cancelled. Unfortunate cross over between new post, should be regulated better now.
7. Confirm items of relevance to be taken forward to the Departmental meeting – attended by PGT Rep and nominee’s where relevant.
   - Feedback

8. Any other business
   - Christmas Party was really good, the students enjoyed it thoroughly and made new friends with staff and other students (PhD and UG)

Next Meeting: 29th April 2015