

Officer Report

Introduction

In April 2022, Postgraduate Research Officer Adetunji, organized few meet ups, as he continues to prioritize his focus on meeting PGR students face-to-face which has proven effective in order to understand their needs and how the PRO office can help.

The feedbacks from PGR community.

Easter: The month of April being a Easter break and most students away from the university was uneventful. However, the PGR students hosted fellow PGR students to wonderful meal. It was a great avenue to chat, exchange views about the learning environment and gather feedbacks.

Meeting: I met Professor, Simon Price, the head of PGR programs at Essex Business School; we had conversations on how we can improve the welfare and study environment for the PGR community at EBS. One of the suggestions reached was having a career summit for the PGR students, the will also serve as medium for the master students who are looking to progress PhD level.

Financial difficulty: April was a difficult period for some PGR students, particularly students from Nigeria at the university as they had problem paying their tuition due to FOREX policy in their home country. Here is the background problem; all international students have to the central bank of Nigeria for foreign currency to have their fees paid at the official rates (Notes: the official naira rate to a pound is 565 naira while black market rate is about 775 naira). This resulted in delay in paying tuition and some of these students that were not able to meet the deadline set by the income department were withdrawn.

We hope that the university, particularly the income department can be more lenient with students as this is a peculiar situation that demands peculiar solution.

Goals Achieved For This Term

- Created more study groups for the PGR community.
- Escalated the complaints of the PGR students to the relevant authorities.
- Received feedbacks from the community.
- Organized few study session.

Goals For The New Term

- We are planning more study groups and sessions for the students as deadlines and examinations approach.
- More support groups to support students towards choosing their dissertation topics and sharing ideas.
- To create more memorable events for members of the community.

Name: Adetunji Bolorunduro

Role: Postgraduate Research Officer

Month: April 2022