

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT VOICE MEETING

20 November 2019

13.00 – 14.00 hours

Chair	Professor Mike Roper
Staff present	Mr Brooker, Professor Canessa, Dr Carlos Gigoux, Dr Halewood Ms Clark
Student representatives	Ms Kabangu, Ms Ware.
Secretary	Mrs Harper

Action

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2019 as a true record. 53/19

M.03/19 It was noted that there was now a notice board that can be used for Student Voice Group information and photos of Student reps which Ms Clark will provide. 54/19 **JC**

M.12/19 The chair confirmed that book reviews had now been added as formative assignments in SC111. 55/19

M.17/19 A suggestion box has been put in the shared common room which can be used by both Sociology and Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies students. 56/19

MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE (paper SVG/19/02)

The membership and terms of reference were noted. 57/19

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Ms Kabangu, Ms Ware agreed to attend the Department meeting on behalf of the student reps. Mrs Harper agreed to notify the Departmental Meeting Committee Secretary of who the student representatives were. 58/19 **JH**

Professor Canessa explained that the Reps would be invited to meet him for lunch before the meetings so he can go over the agenda with them. 59/19

STUDENT SURVEYS (paper SVG/19/03)

National Student Survey (NSS) The NSS is a survey for final year students. The Chair reported that we were very pleased to note that the score for Overall Satisfaction had increased by over 7% in one year, and now stands at 90.5%. 60/19

Our scores also improved for teaching quality with 94% of students stating that academic staff are good at explaining. 61/19

The Chair noted however that the number of students who felt that feedback was “timely” had fallen, and said that the Department will continue to work on this. 62/19

EXTERNAL EXAMINERS REPORTS (paper SVG/19/04)

The Chair said that one thing that came out of the External Examiners Reports was that the majority of work is assessed by essays and exams, and suggested, there could be other elements of assessment introduced. 63/19

Dr Halewood asked the student reps what their thoughts were on a group presentation that could be peer reviewed and marked by the student audience. 64/19

Ms Clark thought that this may be too much to ask students to do. Ms Kabangu said the problem with this is that students don't turn up for classes which would be important for this kind of assessment. 65/19

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Bunching of Deadlines

The Chair reported to the group on the Education committee held on 6 November 2019. He said it was agreed that there were issues with bunching of deadlines for mainly second year students. 66/19

Dr Halewood confirmed this and said that three deadlines in one week were too many and that the proposal that if a student had three deadlines that one late submission would be allowed had been agreed by the Education Committee. He added that we were waiting to see if this suggestion would be approved by the PCV Education. 67/19

Dr Halewood said that Plan B would be to move some deadlines. This could mean setting deadlines in vacation time. He asked the reps if they could canvas opinions from other students on their opinion on this. 68/19 **Reps**

Adding Deadlines to Electronic Diaries

The Chair reported that it was proposed at the Education Committee that we had one single deadline for return of feedback. There was then a suggestion that the deadlines for the return of feedback are in staff and students outlook calendars so that the deadline is clear. 69/19

The chair asked the reps what they thought they both agreed having the deadline when they can expect feedback by in there calendar was a good idea. Although neither thought waiting for the deadline to receive the feedback was a good idea they preferred to have feedback as soon as it was available. 70/19

Help with choosing Module options in 2nd and Final year ('Module Fayre')

The Chair explained that in the past the Department had held a Module Fayre where staff would be available to answer questions on their modules to help students in the choose of modules. He said that this had not been very successful as not many students attended. 71/19

The student reps where asked what they thought would be helpful they said it would be helpful to speak with students who had taken the modules. Mr Brooker asked if they would like to speak to both Academic staff and student they agreed both. 72/19

Ms Clark suggested an informal meeting where students can ask questions to staff and fellow students. 73/19 MR/RB

STUDENT MATTERS

Concerns with SC203 and SC208

Ms Kabangu had had at least 10 complaints from students about SC203 and SC208. They find the lectures boring and hard to understand. She added that the laboratory sessions did help but that the slides were hard to follow. She also commented that SPSS is hard to download. Ms Ware said she found the lectures and lab sessions disjointed but agreed the labs helped. 74/19

Ms Kabangu said that she thought that it should be clearer for students that there is a term on both SC203 and SC208 that is the same. She said she chose SC208 and not SC203 thinking they were different. 75/19

Dr Halewood agreed that these concerns would be added to the Agenda of both the Curriculum Group and Education Committee. 76/19 MH

Feedback re personal tutors

Ms Clark wanted feedback from students as to if they knew the name of their personal tutors. The Reps said some students didn't, they also said that not all students were invited to an informal meeting at the start of term. 77/19

Positives about SC201, admin staff and Robin

The Reps wanted to report that there was positive feedback from students about Dr Deka who lectures on SC201. They said she explains things very well. The Chair said this should be conveyed to Dr Deka. 78/19 MR

They also said they had, had positive feedback about the Administration Team and Mr Brooker our Student Centre manager. 79/19

The Value of IDEATE

Mr Brooker asked the Student Reps if they found IDEATE useful. Both agreed that it was useful and helped students with structure and good practice when writing essays. They both agreed that they would be happy for IDEATE to be published once a year. 80/19

Making Listen again only available by email request

Mr Brooker asked if the reps thought that attendance would improve in class if listen again was only available to students if they requested it. Both reps said that they used listen again to go back over their lecture notes and not so they didn't have to attend. 81/19

Ms Ware suggested that maybe only students who tapped into the Lecture and classes were given access to listen again. 82/19

Mr Brooker agreed to see if this suggestion was possible and report back at the next meeting. 83/19 RB

Jane Harper
29/11/2019