

Minutes for the BIO Staff Student Liaison Committee 2019/20

Date/Time: Wednesday 05th February from 13:00 to 15:00

Venue: NEWSCI 0.03

For background information concerning the SSLC please see the 'Student Representation Code of Practice' that is now available at: <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/documents/6207125/8540534/Student+Representation+Code+of+Practice+2015-16.pdf/86f57373-5624-48f6-8e67-f1b7356f5ab9>.

Present – Ali Demirci (AD), Becky Lewis (BL), Charlotte Price (CP), Emma Skeet (ES), Graham Riley (GR), Jack Jones (JJ), Kash Hinds (KH), Lewis Spurgin (LS), Liz Clarke (LC), Mark Coleman (MC), Phil Leftwich (PL), Safa Mohamed (SM), Sarah Lucas (SL), Sheena Macrae (SMac), Josh Carrara (JC), Santhosh Satrasala Lakshminarayana Guptha (SG) & Jude Salaymeh

Additional – Simon Burroughs (SB)

Apologies received from Gary Rowley, Marna Bailey, Toby Maskell & Isla Hoskings.

1. Welcome

Actions Arising from Previous Minutes –

AP: Timetable issues - MC to report back at next meeting on outcome/proposals from working group on timetabling issues.

Status – Completed

AP: Advertising the BIO SSLC - PL to create advertising (PowerPoint Presentation/Posters etc.) to give to Module Organisers/Lecturers to display.

Status – In Progress – PL to talk to MV to ascertain each other's progress

2. Apologies for absences

As above.

3. Embedded Faculty Support Teams – Phil Leftwich

Phil spoke about the Embedded Faculty Support (EFS) and the role they take in the Student Support Services structure. EFS have drop in sessions every other

day, one to one sessions, can signpost to the broader Student Support Services, refer for counselling and can offer administrative support (for example with HUB related issues). PL asked if anyone had seen any posters in the New Science building. No responses in the affirmative. Student suggestion that library or HIVE would be a better location. GR offered to liaise with the EFS as they are coming to the BIO advisor meeting on Friday 7th February. SL spoke about the difficulty in reaching as many students as possible, and that there is not a one size fits all marketing solution for a service such as EFS. SL also emphasised that whilst EFS offer psychological support, it is not only what they offer. They are a broad service encompassing areas such as financial and housing support.

AP: Embedded Faculty Support – GR to approach EFS about speaking at the BIO advisor meeting on Friday 7th February.

AP: Embedded Faculty Support - PL to liaise with SL on communication to students re: EFS and their role in relation to BIO.

4. Reading week proposal – and updated information on the implementation of ‘week zero’ – Phil Leftwich

PL explained that following on the last meeting he had researched why BIO does not have a reading week. Feedback he received was that the implementation of a reading week in week 5 of the 1st term is being discussed, referred to as a ‘No Content Week’, and that the majority of BIO staff are in support of this. The next step is for student consultation but PL has no details on this currently. The consultation process is open – there is no structure to it and no one has said that it must be run in a particular way. Harriet Jones (HJ) is the staff lead on this and a communication has been sent asking for more staff to involve themselves.

AP: LS/JJ to liaise with HJ about a meeting with BIO Course Reps to discuss the reading week proposal.

AP: PL to send email course reps asking for volunteers to attend a meeting on week zero.

5. Student Engagement and the BIO SSLC

Discussion about the various methods of communication – email, Facebook, other social media channels etc.

AP: SB to add line to end of future SSLC minutes for Course Reps to share the minutes with the student of body of their particular course.

Discussion about the various student groups (UG, PGR etc.) and their involvement in the BIO SSLC.

AP – LS to check with TD that communications are sent to all student groups.

AP – JJ to liaise with SU about Course Rep Training to ascertain what they provide and discuss with them the possibility of a photo board of BIO course reps.

6. Student Consultation on a new course – Diploma in Professional Studies – Lewis Spurgin

SL explained that across SCI there are various courses that allow students to take a year out of their degree program to work in an outside workplace. This is often but not always called a 'Year in Industry' and the degree program lasts 4 years. The 'Diploma in Professional Studies' is an additional standalone qualification to recognise the work that students have undertaken for the 1 year that they are working in industry. Sarah opened the floor for students to have their say on the course proposal. It is not believed that there is extra work for the students – the qualification is recognising the work that they put in during the year that they are working 'in industry'.

In response to a student query SL explained that this is a new separate qualification from the Year in Industry degree program. The Faculty of Science offers taught undergraduate programmes in all Schools with a Year in Industry or with Placement Year variant. The proposal is to provide an additional qualification for students undertaking this degree pathway in recognition of the additional skills undertaken during their level 5 year.

In response to a student query about transferring on to the course, SL replied that she did not believe there would be any changes to the Tier 4 visa system. The same process that students go through to apply for a Tier 4 visa on their degree program would be used for if they transferred onto a Year in Industry course, but that this could be different depending on the country, as there may be variations between countries.

Student feedback in favour of the proposal if they are recognised for the work they are doing and if they switch off a Year in Industry course after the placement but onto a different degree program, they are still being rewarded for the work and effort they put in for the year they spent performing the work.

AP – PL to remind MC to ask either Ian Clark or Richard Bowater to attend the next SSLC meeting to discuss widening access to the Year in Industry program

AP – SB to email students with details of the course proposal

7. Any Other Business

Convener and Student Officer Nominations

JJ reported that nominations for student convener and student officers are now open. Nominations are open until 25th February on the Student Union website.

Library Update - Digital Voyager

LC handed out details of the UEA digital voyager course which is a 4 week, online digital literacy programme, designed to be taken alongside a student's academic studies.

Course Reps

In response to a student query about lack of communication on BIO course reps. JJ apologised for this and added that any student wishing to be a course rep or wanting more information on course reps to email him.

LinkedIn

ES spoke about LinkedIn and the benefits it has for students. SL added that in her opinion more and more employers are using LinkedIn as a platform for connecting with graduates. It has over 80 million users and is free to use.