

## Staff / Student Consultative Committees

Date: 27 March 2019

Time: 2pm

Location: West Room

Present:

Dr James Vaughan, Director of Undergraduate Studies

Simon French: IP Library Rep

Tony Orme: Careers Rep

Olly Parry, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Rep

Emily Georgina Shaw: 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Rep

Sarah Lehmkuehler: 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Rep

Aled Lloyd: Welsh Medium Rep

Huw Lewis: Director of Welsh Medium Studies

Apologies:

Sam Hall

Sabrina Mangham

Caoimhe Mallon

### AGENDA

#### SECTION A

**1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

- 1.1. Reported: the Committee considered and approved the minutes of the SSCC meeting on 23 January 2019

**2. Matters arising from the minutes and any additional items by the Director of Undergraduate Studies.**

- 2.1. Reported: the Committee considered and discussed the Action Points arising from the previous meeting.
- 2.2. Reported: DUS briefed the Committee on plans for pre-Registration

**3. Matters concerning Careers/Employability (Tony Orme)**

3.1. Reported: Tony presented a brief report on ongoing Careers/ Employability events and services.

3.2. Reported: Tony announced that new drop-in sessions based on personal tutor groups were being organised, with an initial emphasis on third/ final year students.

3.3. Sarah raised the issue of events being scheduled for Wednesday afternoons with accompanying inconvenience for students involved in University sports/ societies, etc. Tony replied that these concerns were taken into consideration as far as possible

**4. Matters concerning the Library (Simon French)**

4.1. Reported: Simon had no major issues or problems to inform the Committee about. He briefed the Committee about ongoing Library services, drop-in sessions and Easter vacation opening hours

4.2. Reported: Simon informed the Committee that Huw Owen Library refurbishment of Level E was likely to disrupt some library access during the summer.

4.3 Reported: Simon noted that a survey into user satisfaction with the new renewals/ dynamic loans service was ongoing.

4.4. Reported: Sarah raised a concern about lack of digital access to some texts on one new module in the Department. Simon responded that the module convenor was working with IS to ensure that alternative readings were available when availability or copyright issues prevented the digitisation of some readings.

## **SECTION B - Semester 1 Standing Items:**

### **5. Matters raised by First Year Representatives**

5.1. Reported: Some lectures uploaded lecture presentations before the timetabled lectures, others afterwards. There is a strong student preference for the former whenever possible.

5.2. Reported: Complaints about the quality of C22 as a lecture theatre.

5.3. Reported: Concerns about aspects of IP10320 (general levels of satisfaction were reported but the lecturer could be a little “unpredictable”

**5.4 Action: DUS to ensure that all staff are reminded of importance of maintaining high standards in convening and teaching modules**

5.5. Reported: concerns about overlap with A-level Politics syllabus and IP12920

**5.6. Action: Huw Lewis to consider this issue for the next incarnation of IP12920.**

### **6. Matters raised by Second Year Representatives**

6.1. Reported. High levels of satisfaction and praise for IP20120 core module. Well done Andrew D.

### **7. Matters raised by Third Year Representatives**

7.1. Reported: Apologies had been received from Sabrina.

7.2. Reported: Sarah L asked about the tailoring of personal tutoring for third year students, especially in relation to support for Masters applications and the provision of references/ mark transcripts, etc.

7.3. Reported: a lengthy discussion was held about levels of student dissatisfaction with the Dissertation module. Sarah reported that students felt the large group workshops were not working well, particularly in the second semester where the topics seemed ill-timed to student needs in terms of progress on their projects. Would it be possible to have a more flexible workshop timetable that students could opt-in to? The Dissertation fair was very popular – maybe more of this kind of event could be organised? Some students felt that the allocation of advisors was unsatisfactory – that staff were advising out of their areas of expertise, that in some cases they were too negative or unsupportive and that in a few cases getting access to an adviser had proved extremely difficult

**7.4. Action: DUS reported that a significant Departmental discussion about the organisation and delivery of the Dissertation module was ongoing and that all these points would be taken into consideration as part of that.**

## **8. Matters raised by Joint Honours Representative**

8.1. Reported: apologies had been received from Caoimhe

## **9. Matters raised by Welsh Medium Representative**

9.1 Reported: There were some concerns about the clarity with which Welsh-medium content on individual modules was communicated in advance (i.e. whether students could expect full WM modules, or WM seminars only).

9.2 A productive general discussion was held about how WM provision was decided upon as part of the wider process of teaching programme planning.

9.3 Reported: some concerns that WM blackboard sites were not always updated in an equivalent manner to the English module site versions.

**9.4 Action: Huw Lewis to check with IS that “parent-childing” of WM-EM Blackboard sites was functioning properly.**

9.5 Reported: significant concerns were raised about cultures of tolerance and pluralism in the Department and that some students were exhibiting a lack of respect for Welsh culture and language. This was supported by other students on SSCC and the discussion broadened into a consideration of the challenges raised by a deterioration of culture of respect and tolerance within the undergraduate body as a whole.

## **SECTION C**

### **10. Any other business.**

10.1. No items were reported under AOB