

SSLC in Lockdown – 29th April 2020.

SUMMARY

- We met to discuss specifically the student experience of online teaching and learning and to gather student feedback on this matter.
- Overall, students reported a positive experience of online teaching, with Collaborate in particular being intuitive and easy to use. Students like the 'raising hand' tool, as it helps to create a classroom feeling. They particularly appreciate the interactive functionalities, and when academics really know how to use the format, it is really very good. Students also find being able to refer back to the recordings helpful, and they do use those especially to recap and in cases of lost connectivity during the class. Professors have different teaching methods and ways of presenting, and students appreciate this variety. Connectivity issues and different timezones have been considered by academics and taken into account during teaching.
- Students reported some difficulties with academics not being very familiar with the online formats, in particular forgetting to switch on the recording function until part-way through the lesson, and not switching on chat/microphone/video functions for interaction. It was agreed to remind academics of the functions.
- Students reported it has been difficult to maintain a sense of community during the lockdown period. Reps are reaching out but responses are not overly forthcoming, and students tend to communicate when they have a class. It is understood that everyone is dealing with the change in their own way, but Reps know of some students with difficult situations. Reps were reminded that they are not expected to be counsellors, and of the online Welfare facilities available at QMUL.