

Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) Nanchang JP

The minutes on July 1st 2020, Wednesday

Time: 3pm

Location: NCU JP conference room 301

Staff Members present:

Dr. Maconochie Chair (QM)

Dr. Zhijun Luo Co-Chair (NCU)

Ms. Yi Yang Vice Dean (NCU)

Ms. Jane Qu Administrator (QM)

Ms. Nancy Wang Administrator (QM)

Student Members Present:

Name	Class	NCU ID
Jingyao Xu	191	4217119033
Dingfa Liang	191	4202118026
Ziyu Cai	194	4217119142
Zhaoru Lv	195	4217119180
Zhengyi Yu	196	4217119226
Gan Tang	181	4217118022
Yujia Zhai	183	4217118118
Yuanyi Ling	186	4217118221
Huaye Shi	176	6300517181

Student apologies:

Yuqing Miao 6300517114

Part 1: Preliminary Items

1. Welcome

The Chair Dr. Maconochie and Co-Chair Dr. Luo welcomed members to the meeting of the Nanchang SSLC on July 1st, 2020 and introduced the other members.

2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

Dr. Maconochie briefly outlined the aims of the SSLC committee, which is to give students the opportunity to give the joint programme staff, director and co-director feedback or any issues on teaching related matters. Then, the committee approved the minutes of the meeting on December 9th, 2019 as an accurate record of proceedings.

Part 2: Programme Delivery and other Matters

Student representatives reported the following issues related to learning and teaching matters:

1. The student **Huaye Shi** from Y3 requested to extend the exam duration to 2 weeks or more (at least 2 days between 2 exams), for exam week is tight for them to revise (4 module exams in

five days), especially for some students who have weak physical or psychological qualities.

Dr. Maconochie suggested if students agree with the solution that there is only one week for preparation and they can have those days for the exam week. He will forward it to Giulia SEB to consider and decide.

Dean Luo suggested if the student cannot represent all the students' opinion to agree with Dr. Maconochie's suggestion, they can have a vote and then report the result to school.

2. The student **Gan Tang** from Y2 raised 2 questions:

- 1) Students are a little confused about the final exam paper design for this semester, such as *Cell Biology and Developmental Genetics & Microbiology* lecture, because many MCQs only cover the first and second lectures, not spreading the entire course. They hope the setting for MCQ can focus on and cover the important points and knowledge can be distributed to all the MCQs.

Firstly, Dr. Maconochie shared the testing objectives of the exam and each section (A, B & C) for one module exam paper. He will raise the student's issue to the lectures of SNU208&204 to concern and check, but he couldn't guarantee anything because students are not encouraged only to learn some important points. He also noted that if students only focus on some important points and some other parts will be missed at the same time. Also, Dr. Maconochie disagreed with the point that what questions are easy or important in the test.

- 2) There is some incorrect information in SNU208 slide. For example, it is said the FSH is secreted by Sertoli cells, but FSH is secreted by pituitary gland in fact. Also, there're two texts describing lung development stages. However, one description said the formation of bronchioles and capillaries occurs in pseudoglandular phase, while the other said formation of them occurs in canalicular phase. The second one is correct.

Dr. Maconochie will go back to the lecturers Isabel and Stefan and let them to check and then correct. Also, Dr. Maconochie suggested that students should feel very relaxed to contact their lecturers and let them check any errors they noticed.

3. The student **Yuanyi Ling** from Y2 raised 4 questions:

- 1) The slides of Immunology contain many complicated animations, but there is few explanation which is difficult to understand. They hope the slides could use more words to explain pathways more clearly and accurately.

Dr. Maconochie honestly said he was guilty sometimes about the spelling errors too, but they were trying to improve every year. Also, Dr. Maconochie emphasized again that if students could mention any errors or issues they met with their lecturers, they would very appreciate it.

- 2) Students also suggest that Tom could use QQ more often, for instance, making important announcements.

Dr. Maconochie said Tom was the only lecturer who hasn't successfully got QQ groups yet. Due to the lockdown for all of them, he couldn't solve the issue at that time. However, the

module Immunology lecturers were do expected to have QQ groups for office hours. For the student's suggestion about the announcements on QQ, Dr. Maconochie confirmed that anything important should also be on the course website as well.

- 3) Some spelling errors in SNU208 slides and some Italian words are unable to understand. Hope their lecturer can make some changes to that.

Dr. Maconochie noted that students should have the recordings to listen to the explanation again. He will take it back and request that some bullet points and notes can follow some of the explanations over the difficult areas next year. Dr. Maconochie also suggested that students should use office hours to address any complicated points or issues to their lecturers. He will pass on the student's comments and make sure the better office hours will be given next year. In conversation, Dr. Maconochie raised a question on whether students can get the any Immunology books form JP library. The student replied that they only have the slides and recordings.

- 4) The coursework Dr. Maconochie of Immunology. They did not have any assessments online, and the coursework is supposed to be 25% of the whole Dr. Maconochie, so how will the 25% be assessed.

Dr. Maconochie responded that this will be looked in, for there should be some quiz for course work in June. But we're in the most difficult circumstances, no comments to give right now. The student should send Dr. Maconochie an email to raise the issue and he will help to figure it out.

4. The student **Yujia Zhai** from Y2 raised two questions:

- 1) The quality of recordings is not good, a lot of noises, especially SNU208.

Dr. Maconochie will make sure all equipment work well next semester. If students find any issue, they should feel free to let lecturers know at the start or let Dr. Maconochie know to check.

- 2) They cannot understand what the 'this' 'that' refer to in the recording of SNU208

Dr. Maconochie fully understood and agreed. The issue has been and will improve on it from next semester. They will take the recordings and within a pointer on the screen to show what they say about this or that. The lecturers will all improve on it.

- 3) QM+ web didn't work well when the students studied at home, so the student failed to upload her assignments twice.

Dr. Maconochie fully understood and recognized the difficult time for studying at home, some places in bad internet situation. However, some lecturers had extended the deadline or gave a relaxed deadline for students to submit their assignments. Also, if some students were in a very bad broadband, they should submit an EC and then the IT technician in QM could check the IP address stable or not. What's more, students are encouraged to contact Dr. Maconochie and Choi for EC requires.

5. The student **Ziyu Cai** from Y1 raised a question: whether the laboratory course can be made up? If not, what should I do about this part?

Dr. Maconochie shared that he had already asked the lecturers to define the most valuable lab courses that they've offered are essential fields the students have. The plan for the practicals next year will be run as normal. Y3 students will be invited and welcomed to take the additional practical in next semester B, which is optional but they should expose to know those things.

6. The student **Zhengyi Yu** from Y1 raised 4 questions:

- 1) The student wanted to be clear that whether their missed lab sessions in next semester B won't require their extra practice but only the observation. He also mentioned that Anatomy lab is very important and without the lab sessions they only can see the pictures of the bodies on slides.

Dr. Maconochie pointed that the students will have Chinese Anatomy module to fulfill their needs.

Dean Luo confirmed that students will take Chinese Anatomy next summer semester with bodies and 3D equipment.

- 2) When can their QM lecturers back on campus? Can QM lecturers take 2 weeks quarantine in next semester? (On behalf of **Zhaoru Lv**)

Dr. Maconochie expressed his feeling that he was so missing and hoping to teach them as soon as possible. However, at the moment there are altogether 4 weeks quarantine now if our lecturers come to China. Also, there is no insurance and other security protection for them if the UK government hasn't allowed to travel and they couldn't against the university's and government's advice. Dr. Maconochie noted again that as soon as the quarantine is over or relaxing, they will make the teaching schedule to Nanchang in just a few weeks. Dr. Maconochie also answered one question from Dean Luo about the vaccine that if Chinese government announced the requirement for the exact vaccine, they would do.

Dean Luo confirmed that it's very difficult for taking the quarantine in China, but he also noted that if our lecturers couldn't come next semester, the online teaching would be held within the high-speed broadband in all the 5 classrooms. The suggestion for students is that they should go to the classroom to take the courses. However, only if there is no quarantine required by Chinese government, our lectures could come to Nanchang as soon as possible.

- 3) If students still need to attend the courses online, will they be able to have live telecast instead of recording from previous years? For instance, in Choi's module recordings, they were not clear if he made notes on blackboard and pointed with the mouse.

Dr. Maconochie agreed and shared that they've been planning and training for the preparation of next semester.

- 4) Since they don't have the teachers from QM teaching in Nanchang, will the tuition fees be partially returned to us? Because some think this year's courses and the way it is carried

out shouldn't cost us that much.

Dr. Maconochie pointed that the UK students are the exactly the same as JP students, no refund. And all the lecturers are all being paid by QM JP. Also, teaching remotely is not easy for them as well. Our students will be getting more support in next semester, such as two hours live lectures and transforming office hours into more interacted sessions. Also, Dr. Maconochie noticed that how few students turned up during online office hours, so they should use their lecturers more and more. 'The experience is different, but the content should be the same.' More support will be getting for students.

Dean Luo directly noted that all the students in London and the USA, there is no refund for the tuition fee if they have online courses. Also, all the teaching staff were trying their best to provide the same teaching quality for our students.

7. The student **Jingyao Xu** from Y1 raised 2 questions:

1) Many students give their feedbacks that some of the recordings have wrong video sequence and unclear sounds, such as in Basic Medical Genetics, Rosemary.

Dr. Maconochie noted that it would not be an issue for next semester, and the recordings won't be uploaded again.

2) Could students be informed of the test date earlier in order to better arrange our study plan and prepare for the exam?

Dr. Maconochie noted that QM exams for Y1 and Y2 are always in the last week of the semester. However, last semester the exact time for students came back to campus was unknown until the last minute. Also, the exam time arrangement should also consider NCU modules.

Dean Luo noted they can't decide exact date for modules exams, but Chinese modules exams times could be arranged separately with QM modules.

8. The student **Dingfa Liang** from Y1 raised the request that they want to get the slides or something recommended of the next semester course in the vacation to preview.

Dr. Maconochie noted that QM will not open the page to students until the middle of July. But he will let all the lecturers to share slides of the previous year with all the students. The students also have the recommended textbooks to read.

9. The student **Zhaoru Yu** from Y1 raised a question that why they can't have QM modules at the beginning of the semester, so the students can

Dr. Maconochie agreed and noted that it's a bit difficult, but he will try to distribute lecturers across the whole semester, but it should depend on all the lecturers.

10. The student **Huaye Shi** on behalf of **Yuqing Miao** from Y3 raised a question: students would like to practice more updated clicker questions rather than just watch the previous version questions in the recordings. It would be better if lecturers use online meeting tools like VooV and live quiz to help us reviewing.

Dr. Maconochie noted that it's difficult to use clickers remotely, because student needs a computer in the room. However, next semester they will teach online, so it's possible to use it. For this semester, all the lecturers except Tom were all contactable by WeChat or QQ online. Also, students should be required to login to QM+ to get some laboratory material. What software would be worked well hasn't been decided.