

## **Undergraduate Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) Nanchang Joint Program**

The minutes of Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Time: 12:15PM

Location: NCU JP conference room 301

Staff Members present:

Dr. Mark Maconochie	Chair (QM)
Dr. Zhijun Luo	Co-Chair (NCU)
Ms. Yi Yang	Vice Dean (NCU)
Ms. Jane Qu	Secretary (QM)
Shengnan Wang	Junior Administrator (QM)

Student Members Present:

Zhengyi Yu	Yr1
Zhaoru Lv	Yr1
Ziyu Cai	Yr1
Jingyao Xu	Yr1
Yuanyi Ling	Yr2
Yujia Zhai	Yr2
Gan Tang	Yr2
Huaye Shi	Yr3
Shiyao Fang	Yr3
Yuqing Miao	Yr3

Student apologies:

ZhiKun Li	Y5
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### **Part 1- Preliminary Items**

1, Welcome

The Chair and Co-Chair welcomed members to the meeting of the Nanchang SSLC on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2019 and introduced the other members present.

2, Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

The committee approved the minutes of the meeting on May 21, 2019 as an accurate record of proceedings. Dr. Maconochie also briefly outlined the aims and workings of the SSLC committee, which is to give students the opportunity to give the joint programme staff, director and co-director feedback on teaching related matters.

### **Part 2-Programme Delivery and other Matters**

Students reported the following issues on learning and teaching matters:

1, The student Yuqing Miao from Y3 requested to post previous exam marks on Mysis. Also students are not able to see their marks for the assessment on Grade Plus.

Dr. Maconochie responded that this will be looked into. The website is updated per normal schedule, however some records are submitted late and therefore entry is delayed. Another concern is whether posting all marks online would allow students to see each other's marks and raise privacy issues.

The student also provided feedback that's there is no place for them to access the previous modules, Dr. Maconochie asked to check the archives for all of the modules.

The student mentioned SNU301 project work takes too long and students are spending nights on those. Dr Luo asked students to let Dr. Luo know if any of the students' supervisor asked students to work late and inform student counselors.

Student asked when marks will be posed. Dr. Maconochie informed that the marks cannot be released until exam board is held in February 2020.

2, The student Huaye Shi from Yr3 raised questions on result of project 309, he said himself and classmates were getting bad experiment results and think one of the reasons was that the cells provided were in bad condition.

Dr. Maconochie noted that it can be normal to receive undesirable experiment results. It's suggested for the students to identify what went wrong and narrow down the experiment topic.

3, The student Fangshi Yao said on the old campus, the laboratory is being renovated and interferes with carrying out experiments there.

Dr. Maconochie notes an extension will be looked into, and asked students to communicate with Mario, Dr. Maconochie and Dr. Luo to let them know of issues so they can help address.

The student also said it was hard to find animal-related articles from PubMed. Dr. Luo recommended to try different search terms.

The student raised question that the final exam this semester is too early.

Dr. Maconochie noted that this is new scheduling from this year and will assess the concern once exams are released and marked.

4, The student Gan Tang from y2 said that the arrangement of lectures for year 2 is not proper. The student would like the pharmacology lectures behind Biomolecule of life lectures.

Dr. Maconochie noted that because this is based on availability of staff but it is not the

normal planning. Should this have to happen again, we will offer a mini lecture on chemistry for students need or offer additional workshops following the lectures.

5, The student Yujia Zhai from Y2 said the students would like to see neurobiology content added to physiology lectures (in Year One Semester B) because it is difficult for them to absorb the knowledge if Neurobiology lecture is only offered in Year 2.

Dr. Maconochie agreed that Neurobiology is very hard and may try to introduce small elements of Neurobiology into Human Cell and Human anatomy next year where appropriate. Dr. Luo suggested asking the staff to analyze which Neurobiology concepts students struggle with and incorporate related teaching content into physiology.

6, Students Yuanyi Ling from Y2 said students are confused about the relationship between courses, and wanted to know outline of each module.

Dr. Maconochie noted he would raise the issue in staff meeting, as staff are expected to tell students how modules relate to each other at the start of a new module. .

7, The student Zhaoru lv from y1 would like to increase lengths of office hours so more students can be helped with their questions.

Dr. Maconochie noted that he is very pleased to see many students interesting in office hours, but pointed out that students are expected to try to find the answers themselves first before coming to office hours. In addition, there are other question answering channels such as the QQ group. If students have requests for specific lectures, we can look into the office hour section.

The students also questioned how detailed the exam answers should be to get good marks.

Dr. Maconochie says there are a couple strategies to consider: 1) look at how many marks are available, if the question is worth 10 marks, the answer should be substantial, 2) students should pay attention to feedback on each practical, and look to see why they did not get full marks on a question,3) students should not feel constrained in answering the questions as fully as they are able.

8, The student Zhengyi Yu from y1 wanted as many practice questions to assess how well they have mastered the module.

Dr. Maconochie noted that this question gets raised every year. We are not trying to teach students to pass the exam but training students with knowledge and how to use this knowledge. Students need to spend time to understand what is being taught during the semester. In fact, we have been giving students many SAQ question on QMplus, and MCQ papers etc to help students understand the modules as well as MCQs during every lecture in real time.

9, Student from y1 Jingyao Xu said many students do not know how to write a good lab report and asked for advice.

Dr. Maconochie suggested students use feedback for guidance. Less discussion in a report would most likely not get good marks. He also noted the mark scale difference between QM and NCU. He encouraged students that coursework will feel easier as time goes by but to pay particular attention to the feedback they are given by lecturers. This feedback is given precisely to help students learn how to write their lab reports better.

10, Student Ziyu Cai from Y1 said some students would like to explore knowledge deeper than textbooks, but worry it could become a waste of time.

Dr. Maconochie notes students are encouraged to go as far and as deep as they can beyond the textbook material, but they need to first understand what has been taught, and build a solid foundation first. This is especially true for Y1 students.

Minutes submitted by Jane Qu