School of Mathematical Sciences
Postgraduate Student Staff Liaison Committee
17th February 2020 Minutes

Staff members present:

Name	Role
Sebastian Del Bano Rollin (SdBR)	Chair SSLC PGT Meeting
Mark Walters (MW)	Director of Education
Michael Phillips (MP)	Director Postgraduate Taught Studies
Primoz Skraba (PS)	MSc Data Analytics Course Programme Director
Simon Rawstron (SAR)	Education Service Manager
Maria Turner (MT)	Secretary SSLC PGT Meeting
William NG (WN)	Student Support Officer

Student members present:

Name	Programme name and level
Camilo Blanco Vargas (CBV)	MSc Financial Computing Course Representative
Stuti Malik (SM)	MSc Mathematics Course Representative
Shane Richardson (SR)	MSc Data Analytics Course Representative

Apologies for absence:

Name	Programme name and level / role
Boris Khoruzhenko	Head of School
Neofytos Rodosthenous (NR)	MSc Mathematics Finance/MSc Financial Computing Course Programme Director
Alexander Gnedin (AG)	MSc Mathematics Programme Director
James Soderman	Faculty Liaison Librarian – Science & Engineering
Muhammad Abdulmuntaqim (MA)	MSc Financial Computing Course Representative

Part 1 – Preliminary Items	
1(a)	**Welcome and introduction for new members**
2019.044	(SdBR) welcomed all members and all members introduced themselves (including their role or programme).
1(b)	**Apologies for Absence**
2019.045	The meeting **noted** the apologies of members as recorded above.
1(c)	**Minutes of the previous meeting**
2019.046	The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th December.
1(d)	**Report on actions taken and matters arising**
2019.047	**2019.006** It was confirmed that more career communications have been sent out to PGT students regarding job opportunities, guidance and support for all MSc students. **2019.012** It was confirmed that there was still only one lab assistant plus the lecturer and nothing changed. This module has now finished, so it will be looked at again for next year. **2019.16** Students would like the option to be able to take more business elective modules in the next semester. MP confirmed that changes are going to be made next year. **2019.022** The issue of having a microwave for the "Social Hub" was raised again. SAR confirmed that due to concerns related to health and hygiene, this won't be possible. SAR then confirmed that the water fountain is currently been installed in the "Social Hub" and will be finished in around 3 week time. **2019.032i** EECS counterpart to escalate over ECS708U/P Machine Learning due to missed teaching – MW will update at the next meeting with regards to this action. It is noted the module has finished now and the exam has taken place already.
1(e)	**Terms of reference and membership**
2019.048	Nothing to report
1(f)	**Admission, induction and enrolment**
2019.049	Nothing to report
2(a)	**Programme/module developments and amendments**
2019.050	**Financial Computing** The SSLC was advised that there will be changes but all amendments will for next year.

2 (b)	**Learning and teaching matters**
2019.051	**MSc Financial Computing** – CBV advised SSLC that all students are happy with the modules, it a good course but would prefer coursework and final exam instead of 2 final exams. CBV further advised that students feel they are taking some modules that are not relevant to the programme.
2019.052	**Timetable Clash** - SM stressed there was a timetable clash with module "Coding Theory" and Machine Learning and asked if this could be changed to different time. MW stated that the module is far too big and that it is too late in the term for any changes to be made. SAR advised that this should be raised to the School Office so it can be dealt with quickly.
2019.053	**Trading Risk System Development –** CBV advised that students from MSc financial computing, find the current teaching in Excel not very challenging, and it was explained that this introduction was necessary because it will evolve to VBA and C++ software development connected with Excel.
2(c)	**Assessment and feedback**
2019.054	**Graphs & Networks** SR (CR) stressed there are students who are concerned that they might not have done as well as they expected in the January exams, and are apprehensive about exam results release on Monday 24 February. These have not yet been released so we do not know how they have done.
2019.055

2019.056 | **Data Analytics** SR (CR) has again stressed that the programme requires too much prior mathematical knowledge, given the programme website clearly indicates that the only prior mathematical knowledge required is "some understanding or probability and statistics" (quote from the website)

Projects SR (CR) advised that he felt that there was not enough Data Analytics project topics and advised that other schools have a much wider choice of project SR (CR) wanted to know why there is not any industrial related projects made available to the students. MP advised that this route will have implications of how projects will be supervised and there are H&S considerations. MP also confirmed this will be looked at but nothing is in place yet.   SR also stressed that a few students and project supervisors asked if there was any way students could access a computing cluster or cloud computing service if needed for their dissertation.

Action SdBR will look into student access to QMUL compute clusters and advise at the next meeting

MSc Financial Computing CBV advised that an anonymous poll with all current 15 students of the programme and that it was worthy. In the previous |

	SR (CR) went on to say that some students still have not got a project topic although they have MO signature he has been advised that this does not mean it is approved. PS advised that this is something that needs to be escalated to Professor Alexander Gnedin as he is charge of project allocations.
2019.057	**MSC Financial Computing Research Projects** - CVB stressed that so far there are only 3 students who have sent approval request forms to Professor Alexander Gnedin. The MSc Financial Computing students are interested in projects in ECS, it was explained that this is not possible, but students can propose subjects and look for supervisor in the Maths department. With regards to the course, there was a poll about all MSc Financial Computing modules and the results are contained in the attached document "**QMUL Computation Finance MSc Poll 2019/2020".**
2(d)	**Academic report**
2019.058	Nothing to report
2(e)	**Organisation and communication**
2019.059	**QMUL Emails** SM asked how long will her QMUL email be active after graduation. WN advised that the QMUL Alumni page states that QMUL emails are disabled instantly, however, IT state it can be active for 6 months although another QMUL web-page states it can be kept for 2 years. **Action** - WN will be speaking to all 3 departments to ascertain which information is correct and update at the next meeting
2019.060	**Tier 4** SR (CR) stressed that too much scanning of ID cards was being done, as he advised he scans in the lecturer classes and still has to go into the school office to have his attendance scanned. Also some of the Tier 4 students who have to scan have asked if they could have extra courses added to the scanning list as for many there is only one day per week whereby they are able to scan their attendance. SR explained that UKVI require us to report on Tier 4 student attendance and failure to provide effective records could jeopardise QMUL's Tier 4 license. Scanning is therefore being done intentionally done in the best interest of the student. SAR confirmed that extra modules for scanning will be added.
2(f)	**Learning resources & Careers** • **Library facilities / materials (books, journals etc.)** • **QMplus** • **Q-Review** • **Updates from faculty E-learning forums** • **IT**

2019.061 2019.062	**Q-Review** SM stressed that not all lectures are on Q-Review. As students occasionally unable to attend lecturers or have clashes and this would be helpful. MW advised that lecturers are all encouraged to do so but it is not in their academic contract to do so and have the option to opt out. **QMplus** SM asked how long after graduation will the QMplus pages be accessible to students. WN advise that files are archived and accessible but will advise at the next meeting with the time span.
2(g)	**Student feedback (NSS/PTES/QMSS/Modules evaluations)**
2019.063	Nothing to report
Part 3	**Any Other Business**
2019.064	Nothing to report
Part 4	Date of next meeting
2019.065	TBC

Action Sheet: Student-Staff Liaison Committee

Minute	Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Action status	Issue Resolved?
2019.027i	Obtain a confirmed invite to EECS SSLC, from EECS.	MP	Week 12	New	YES (Via email) dated 20/02/2020
2019.027ii	Information on the Student Complaints process to be sent to CBV.	SAR	Week 12	New	Yes
2019.027iii and 2019.034i	PGT students should have been advised of change in module choices. This is to be followed up with PS.	MP	Week 12	New	
2019.032i	MW to contact EECS counterpart to escalate the concerns over ECS708U/P Machine Learning due to missed teaching (strike) and imminent coursework submissions.	MW	Week 12	Next meeting	
2019.040i	Arranging small group careers sessions	SC	Next Meeting	New	
2019.053	Trading Risk System Development Discussion with Pedro Vergel regarding his first 1 hour lecture	SdBR	Next Meeting	New	
2019.056	Projects – (Dissertations done in industry and accessing clusters) SdBR will look into student access to QMUL compute clusters and advise	SdBR	Next Meeting	New	

2019.059	To ascertain the correct information regarding the length of time QMUL email is active after graduation as the information on Alumni Page, IT and QMUL web is different	WN	Next Meeting	New	
2019.032i	MW to contact EECS counterpart to escalate the concerns over ECS708U/P Machine Learning due to missed teaching (strike) and imminent coursework submissions.	MW	Week 12		Completed *** To be discussed at next meeting