

School of Law
Undergraduate Student Staff Liaison Committee
28th October 2020

Part 1 – Preliminary Items

1(a) Welcome and introduction for new members

1(b) Apologies for Absence

Present	Muhammad Iqbal Law Year 2 - Rep
Rupert Seal (Chair)	Julia Cyrson Law Year 3 - Rep
Shahida Uddin (Secretary)	Lola Rivoir English and French Law (Double degree with Sorbonne) Year 2 - Rep
Niovi Vavoula (Senior Tutor)	Viktoria Moerk-Moerkenstein English and European Law Year 1 - Rep
Sheila Shirley (Undergraduate Student Support)	Yara Hourani English and European Law Year 4 - Rep
In attendance	Hana Sattar Law with Business Year 2 - Rep
Jonathan Griffiths (Director of Education)	Zainab Saboor Law with Business Year 3 - Rep
Course Reps Present	Emma Sorvik Global Law Year 1 Rep
Binta Yade Law and Politics Year 2 - Rep	Abhishek Jhala Global Law Year 3 Rep
Mickaella Andriantsiferana Law and Politics Year 3 - Rep	
Kanika Durga Law Year 1 - Rep	Apologies
Thunchanok Lap-Itti Law Year 1 - Rep	Annabelle Woghiren Law and Politics Year 1 - Rep
Tom Leval Law Year 1 - Rep	Loyal Hammoud Law Year 3 - Rep
Ahmet Oztekin Law Year 2 - Rep	Liza Dieschbourg English and European Law Year 3 – Rep (had issues connecting)

1(c) Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read, approved as a correct record and adopted

1(d) Report on matters arising and actions taken

N/A

1(e) Membership

RS explained to the meeting that, rather than students feeling intimidated by a large number of academic colleagues, the committee membership had been reduced. The members of the committee are: the Senior Tutors; Sheila in her capacity as Student Support Officer; and Shahida as committee secretary.

The SSLC is for students to bring any issues for discussion. Such issues may be resolved within committee meetings or escalated within the Department to the Education Committee, module convenors, Director of Education or senior management as appropriate. Students should feel comfortable to bring any issues to this committee.

1. Admissions, induction and enrolment

RS explained to the meeting that, given the intervention of the Government in August over A-level results, first year admission were particularly high this year.

The university has worked very hard to ensure students and staff safety during the Pandemic.

2. Matters arising

Binta Yade: Law and Politics Year 2 – Rep

First issue that was raised by the student representative was international student fees. The fees this year have increased. It was suggested that the learning environment quality and experience has been reduced.

JG responded that we have heard this from other people. The Department understands why students have brought this up. Unfortunately, the Department is not responsible for setting up the fees or the fees policy. The University position is that there is not a reduction this year; this is a pandemic we are doing as much we can with the circumstances we are confronting.

Binta Yade added the lack of communication from the University as to why the fees are not being reduced has caused frustration. This has been raised by the SU as well; the Students understand it is very unlikely for the fees to be reduced but request and explanation from the University.

JG responded that we shall escalate the matter.

Julia Cyrson Law Year 3 - Rep

Cameras should be turned on during tutorial/lectures; students feel it is part of the etiquette to have the camera on. It would be great if tutors can remind students to put the cameras on at the start.

RS agreed and reported that academic colleagues would also like students to have their cameras and microphones on as a matter of course; but we also understand that if students have family around, especially younger siblings who might be too noisy etc. this is not always possible.

Action 1: Inform academic staff to remind student to put their cameras at the start of the class

Ahmet Oztekin Law Year 2 - Rep

Last semester there was no detriment policy; would this apply for this year?

RS confirmed as it stands, that policy is not in place for the current academic year.

Emma Sorvik Global Law Year 1 Rep

Workload help, how to approach assessment and manage workload.

RS and **SS**: It was recommended to speak to the GSAs. They have various workshops and drop-in sessions, which can be found on QMplus. There is webinar on study skills.

ACTION 2: JG to share the link of the webinar on study skills

Muhammad Iqbal Law Year 2 – Rep

Lectures for Tort law sometimes add up to 3hrs; Criminal Law adds up 1hrs 20mins - there seems to be no boundary on the length of the lecture.

RS reported the module convenor has confirmed there are no lectures that are 3hrs long; and all materials and lectures that are usually set face to face, are the same as the lecture online.

MI - Communication to students has not been great especially with international students. Students have received emails from the Principal stating their will be face-to-face learning and some students have moved to London as a result. There had also been a video message from the Head of School stating there will be face-to-face activities on campus. Students are not sure if they should return to the UK.

RS confirmed the email from the Principal did not mention face-to-face learning; but did mention blended learning.

JG - the Head of School video message regrettably informed students that for reasons of health and safety planning, the Department had taken a clear decision on teaching online for next semester. JG expressed academic colleagues don't want teaching to be online, but unfortunately there is no real and safe alternative other than continue with online teaching for semester B. The plan for next semester is to increase the extra circular actives. Clinical modules are exploring face-to-face teaching.

ACTION 3: JG to end students on campus programme for semester B

Binta Yade Law and Politics Year 2 – Rep

Online library resources; some international students have not bought their textbooks and access to textbooks online is quite limited. Would this issue be resolved before the exam period?

RS reported that there are some core textbooks that are available electronically through the Library. We would normally expect students to buy their own textbooks; textbooks can also be brought electronically.

JG - there are licence issues, although we are pushing more online textbooks in the library. There is also a list of textbooks in the various subjects. The University bookshop can usually get an online copy and so it is worth students getting in touch with the bookshop. Colleagues are aware of the difficulties and have been asked to put as much as possible within copyright limits on to QMplus.

Action 4: Textbook list to be circulated to course reps/QMplus

Zainab Saboor Law with Business Year 3 – Rep

Format of the lectures, students in the past/normal circumstances if lectures/seminars are longer than one hour, students had 5-10mins break. However online seminars/lectures there are no breaks and students do not want to miss anything because some lectures/seminars are not recorded.

RS recommended requesting a break to the module convenor or lecturer.

SS confirmed law modules do not have lectures/seminars more than 2hrs.

Zainab highlighted the importance of a student buddy scheme. Reminder for first years to contact their student buddies

Lola Rivoir English and French Law (Double degree with Sorbonne) Year 2 - Rep

Students have had trouble accessing books and documents, especially academic law journals. Is there a guideline from the Library?

RS confirmed the Library has guidelines and details on accessing books. Law journals can be accessed electronically via the various platform for example Westlaw, Lexis etc. (journals dating back in 1982 on west law)

LR - Students need more guidance on how to use/access the databases.

Action 4: Guidance on how to use and access the various databases

Muhammad Iqbal Law Year 2 - Rep

Received an email from a student who is dyslexic; the prescribed reading for Tort Law only mentions the chapters not the pages.

JG - the convener does not want give the precise page numbers because it is not relevant.

RS suggested to use the index. Whilst recognising that this may not be easy for a dyslexic, it may help.

Muhammad again raised concerns around fees. A lot of international students feel is it unfair. Can the University guide the students?

RS suggested contacting the Student Union again. The Student Union is formal representative of the student body toward the University.

Yara Hourani English and European Law Year 4 – Rep

Can the Law building be open after 18:00?

SS - Unfortunately, this will not be possible, as we are restricted by Security.

Part 3 – Any Other Business

N/A

Part 4 – Date of the next meetings

Action

Notes	Action	Who	Deadline	Status
	Inform academic staff to remind student to put their cameras at the start of the class	JG	Report to education committee	

	Jonathan to share the link of the webinar on study skills	JG	Before the next SSLC	
	Send students on campus programme for semester B	JG	Report back to the next SSLC	
	Textbook list to be circulated to course reps	JG	Before the next SSLC	Completed 30.10.2020
	Guidance on how to use and access the various databases	JG	Before the next SSLC	
	Promote buddies	SU	Before the next SSLC	Completed 30.10.2020