

Minutes for Staff Graduate Consultative Committee

Wednesday 1 March 2017, 2 PM, Steve Crichton Room

Attendance: - Karijn van den Berg, Jana Wattenberg, Abigail Julia Blyth, Lydia Cole, Leonor Charpentier-Podrez, Kristin Gulbrandsen, Lucie Kattenbroek, Tiina Pehkonen, Mrs Sarah Gwenlan, Library Representative, Dr Inanna Hamati-Ataya, Director of Graduate Studies, Dr Gillian McFadyen, Masters Programme Officer and Donia Richards, Academic Operations Officer.

1. Apologies

Ian Crook

2. Minutes of the last meeting

No issues brought up

3. Matters arising from the minutes

3.1. Library matters

Issue of research masters' library privileges raised. Question of access of PhD students to e-mail accounts after submission. Both issues will be looked into.

3.2. Policy on harassment and bullying

Statement on harassment and bullying has been replaced with a longer version, and students have been provided with a link to access it. It has been integrated into the PGR and PGT handbooks. Welsh translations are in the works.

3.3. PTTS contracts

No further action

4. Items from the chair

4.1. PhD

Update on the state of PhD recruitment. Candidates put forward for funding. Generally good continuity within department from undergraduate and masters level.

4.2. MA

Masters dissertation forum is being worked on. Date set to 15 March 2017. Staff will be present to discuss methodology etc. Professor Beardsworth, Head of Department will give talk on ethics.

5. Masters matters

5.1. Study room

Request for room in the Interpol building for studying purpose. Informed that new furniture for rooms are coming, to be ready around 10 March 2017. Rooms are also available to book in the library, and in Interpol after 12 PM on Wednesdays. Availability of Steve Crichton to be looked into. Reminder to keep noise levels low.

5.2. Seminar structure

Feedback from master's students about expectations of more structured seminars. Inanna will send note to colleagues about this.

5.3. Contact hours

Question raised about number of seminars in a semester. Informed that second semester is less structured, however catch-up seminars should be communicated to students. Students should get in contact if there are problems.

6. PhD matters

6.1. Committees

Lack of clarity about which committee deals with what. Students want an overview over responsibilities, making it easier to raise issues. Inanna will send out e-mail if necessary.

6.2. Research environment and PhD intake

Question raised about effects of decreased PhD intake on research environment. Informed that the issue lies with reduced funding available. Less available AberDoc scholarships, and competition with Cardiff for ESRC. Richard is working to secure scholarship funding for centenary. Suggestion to create a database of available scholarships. Made aware of existing funding generator.

6.3. PhD buddy system

Suggestion of creating a voluntary buddy system for new PhDs. Discussion of how structured it should be and whether it should be made part of the induction. Agreement that this should be done by students, for example through existing representatives.

7. Any other business

7.1. IPRS

Good IPRS attendance noted

7.2. Minutes

Suggestion of creating a rota for minute taking in the future

8. Date of next meeting

Next meeting date set to 3 May 2017