

Student Faculty Meeting - Wednesday 27th October 2021

Minutes

Present

Mark Button (Chair)

Rebecca Foulds-Hopkin

Nav Sahota

Caroline Balfour (Minutes)

Catie-Anne Harper (MA Student Rep)

Lisa Greenwood (BA Student Rep)

1. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

2. Course and Module Content

2.1. CH commented that there was a delay for a few students gaining access to the Chester Portal and Moodle, which they felt resulted in confusion with some of the content of the modules and assignment questions.

2.1.1. MB acknowledged that this was due to some late MA applicants which then delayed their registration with Chester. The college would ensure that, as much as possible, in future this will be sorted before lectures commenced. This would mean an earlier application cut off date.

2.1.2. RFH explained that all students were emailed Module Descriptor details early in September, so they did have the module content information.

2.2 LG reported that most BA students are happy with the course content. Although it is a lot to take in, they realise that this is to be expected with the intensive mode of delivery.

3. Teaching and Learning Methods

3.1. CH reported that some MA students felt they were missing out on some teaching as they were unable to attend the webinars and not all webinars are recorded. Having the module notes available to students ahead of time would be helpful.

3.1.1. MB would look into the webinars being recorded and for them to be made available to students for a short time frame.

3.2 LG commented that BA students are finding the teaching interactive, inclusive and the classroom discussions are engaging.

4. Quality of Learning Environment

4.1. CH fed back that although there were some teething problems with Zoom, overall the feedback was positive. Those joining via zoom felt included. Students appreciate the connectivity and support from staff. Table tennis has been popular and more availability of games for students in their down time between lectures would be appreciated.

4.2. LG Overall positive feedback from BA students. Air conditioning in the classroom in the hotter months would be appreciated and students have found the late afternoon lectures harder to engage with.

5. Workload and Assessment

5.1. CH commented that 1st year MA students were feeling nervous about the first assignment submission and that it was daunting having the deadlines close together.

5.1.1. RFH would look at the possibility of staggering the deadlines throughout the year.

5.2 LG reported that the majority of BA students are coping with their workload. Having assignment deadlines included with the module descriptor would be helpful.

6. Relationship between Faculty and Students

6.1. Both CH and LG commented that students felt greatly supported and appreciated the 'family' environment particularly at lunchtimes. The Faculty are approachable and encouraging.

7. Course Documentation

7.1. LG commented that the BA students have found the BA Handbook helpful.

8. Availability of Resources

8.1. CH pointed out that some recommended books are not on Perlego and it would be helpful if these books were highlighted. Some students are finding it difficult to source these books.

8.1.1. MB responded that the college would work towards ensuring that all Bibliographies were available on Perlego ensuring that everything is in easy reach to help student research. Also there will be continued monitoring of the resources available in the Research Centre.

9. Student Issues

9.1. LG pointed out that there have been some issues with students receiving parking tickets.

9.1.1. Although this has now been resolved, NS is meeting with the Audacious Team to create a better tracking system for students using the car park during Intensive weeks.

9.2 CH mentioned that it would be good for the MA timetable to have more structured evening social events.

9.2.1. MB agreed that this was important and would be looked at for the next MA Intensive.

9.3. Both MA and BA reps commented on a positive learning experience and that students appreciated the hot lunch provided and the time spent interacting with staff.

10. A.O.B.

10.1. MB mentioned that in 3 - 4 months the college would be having a Quality Standards Review and that they will want to be communicating with students via the Student Reps.

10.2. Both MB and RFH wanted to thank the Student Reps for their hard work in obtaining feedback from students and for their positive comments.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next Student Faculty meeting is scheduled for 15th December.