

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**Date:** Thursday 12th February 2020 **Time:** 12:15 **Room:** 3092

Attended – 11 Apologies - 10

**AGENDA**

1. **WELCOME**

Chiara welcomed everyone to the Academic Council and briefly went through the purpose of the meeting for those who had not attended before.

1. **STUDENT PRESIDENT UPDATE**
2. **Elections**

Voting began on Monday 9th March 2020 and closes on Thursday 12th March 2020.

1. **Industrial Action**

Went through the strike aims which are called the ‘4 fights’. Pay, Equality, Casualisation and Workload. The last day of the strike is Friday 13th March 2020. Chiara invited questions.

* Are we coming out in solidarity with the Stirling University students who have been suspended after striking in support of their lecturers. *Actions will be discussed with the Officers committee.*
* Is there any movement with the outcome? *Nothing yet.*
* Is there anything as students we can do? *Write to the Principal or the UCU )Union of Colleges and Universities). Info on the QMU website.*
1. **Coronavirus**

At the moment it is business as usual. All senior staff are involved in multiple meetings to monitor and act on the advice given by Health Protection Scotland. More information can be found at [www.qmu.ac.uk/coronavirus](http://www.qmu.ac.uk/coronavirus). Questions were invited.

* A university in West Scotland has someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
* Are there any cases in Edinburgh? *At the time of writing there were 8 reported in Lothian, however this has not been broken down into areas.*
* Class Reps felt that QMU
1. **Appeals & Extenuation Circumstances**

Sacha went through the procedures for Academic Appeals and Extenuating Circumstances. The following links to be shared with the Reps classes. [www.qmu.ac.uk/media/3961/academic-appeals.pdf](https://www.qmu.ac.uk/media/3961/academic-appeals.pdf)

[www.qmu.ac.uk/media/7154/extenuating-circumstances-policy.pdf](https://www.qmu.ac.uk/media/7154/extenuating-circumstances-policy.pdf)

1. **FEEDBACK FOCUS GROUP**

Chiara went through the principal of the Feedforward Focus group. This will be a working group to get lecturers to include in their feedback ways to improve. There is a meeting on Friday 20th March 2020 from 10.30 – 12.30 in room 0049. If you would like to attend please email Chiara to let her know. cmenozzi@qmu.ac.uk

1. **CLASS REP FEEDBACK**
* Many of the reps discussed the issues they were having with their various courses. Some noted however that these could be resolved/brought to light at SSCC meetings. The PG reps that attended had not been invited to an SSCC and they felt this would have been useful as there are numerous issues with their course. *(I have emailed the School Office for clarification as to how the invites are requested and received this response* Hi Sacha, The School Office isn’t informed of when SSCC meetings are held—this, and the running of the Committees are handled at the programme-level. I would suggest contacting the Programme Leader of the specific programme(s) in question. *– SF)*
* There seems to be an issue with some courses where there is no marking criteria available for the students when they begin the module. In some cases there is a month to go until their submission date and still no criteria available. *(I have emailed Fiona Coutts, Dean of HS and Brigid Daniel, Dean of ASSaM for clarification and received this response. They both would expect that all the information on assignments and marking criteria should be available at the start of a module and that if there is a particular concern to raise it with the module coordinator and if the problem persists to take it to the SSCC.– SF)*
* Announcement from Chiara. WE HAVE A MICROWAVE!!!!!!! It will be available 24/7 in 1875 by the fire doors. Hopefully there will be cleaning products beside it as it is important that it is kept clean at all times. This is for a trial period to see how it goes. Therefore if it is not kept in a good, clean condition it will be taken away.
1. **SAVE THE DATES**

**AGM on Tuesday 24th March @ 4.15pm followed by the STaR Awards @ 5pm.**

**Pop up Union, every Tuesday 12.15 – 1.15 in the Atrium**

**Big Bang, Friday 1st May 2020 from lunchtime onwards in Maggies**

1. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**TBC**

**Contact Information**

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