

Student Consultative Committee Meeting Minutes for 15th April 2019

In attendance: Genia, Emily, Hannah, Nakita, Laura, Victoria, Cassie, Cameron, Giselle, Sheran, Javiera, Matt

Apologies: Alex

Facilitator: Matt

Secretary: Giselle

AGENDA

1. Introduction to SEES Reps Roles and SEES Student Advisory Group

- Commitment of 2-3 meetings per semester for the rest of 2019.
- Meetings will be an hour.
- Feedback should aim to be collected from the SEES cohort as broadly as possible and at a high level. Committee members should maintain the confidentiality of all students who provide feedback.
- Students participating in the committee may have access to other leadership opportunities, but no further commitments outside this committee are required.
- In future meetings (at the end of the semester) the chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee (TNL), Thomas Sigler, will attend to hear the discussions.

2. Introduction to Reps

3. Advisory Group Roles

- Further discussion for group roles or requirements to be directed to Matt.

4. Feedback from the Student Cohort

- Feedback to be focused around 'the good, the sad and the ugly' concept which incorporates positive feedback for expansion, negative feedback to be improved or noted and urgent feedback that needs to be addressed.

GOOD

- Expansion of PASS classes – ENVM7512 Environmental Problem Solving and ENVM7202 Resource Management and Environmental Management for postgraduate level have been highly attended and successful. Undergraduate level classes are going well, but suggestion to expand the range of courses that classes run for eg. BIOL1030. This belong to the School of Biological Sciences so would need to be coordinated by them. Academic advocacy network reps to take suggestion of STAT1201 and BIOL1030 PASS classes to the science faculty rep.
- Postgraduate cohort trip was a big success. It allowed everyone to become familiar and left feeling closer and more supported. Much positive feedback. The undergraduate trip didn't go ahead because of the cyclone and the rescheduling wasn't possible. Will be considered again for the future. The trip running for free is really great because it allows students who are still becoming financially stable to still access the networking benefits. Further brainstorming needed for how to get more students engaged with the trip.

- Coffee in the kitchenette and the open study spot are great facilities for new and existing students. Possibility for the future of creating more study areas around the Steele Building since it is so popular? Suggestion of adding chairs or benches to the downstairs open area near the Rock Museum to improve the usability of this space.
- Nivea – “always a lifesaver” quote from a student rep. Always friendly, available and helpful.

SAD

- PASS classes running short on time for discussion of answers and concepts, in particular ENVM1501 Introduction to Environmental Management. Matt to meet with the PASS leaders this week and will pass that feedback to the leaders for this year.
- Honours students appreciate having office desk space. Querying why the environment management/science students don't have desk space and whether there is potential for a room to be available. The reason is that desk space is a premium and although there are enough for geography and geology students, there are around 80 students under environmental management or science thesis studies and space cannot be afforded. Same for some postgraduate students. The 401 and 432 rooms in Chamberlain are available for use by these students. Rather than room space, is there potential for locker or storage space for research students to store room between classes? Bike lockers are available but difficult to access.
- Demand for increased ArcGIS help sessions or additional training courses in the first week of semester for students who are new to the software. Centre for Digital Scholarship may be able to help with this including daily support for GIS.
- Geology students – first year geology student plan is not adequate for new students to be able to easily read and understand such that it will actually support them in their degree. Has been looked into by staff, the submission of a new study plan was told to have been submitted but no update yet. Staff to follow up further.
- Ethics clearance guides for HDR students don't exist, more support needed specifically for the SEES students. Confusion about whether students need to pursue the pathways for low or high-risk ethics approval and more communication from the school ethics board and students if the applications get escalated.
- Query about whether first year students could access peer reviewing from older students for their assignments. Suggestion from other reps that PASS leaders can help with looking over and helping students to keep on the right track with their content and arguments. Suggestion to better utilise the course discussion boards for students to ask questions and suggestions for topics to include, reps could advocate for more use among their peers. Some first-year courses also have Facebook groups for courses or PASS groups that could be explored as an avenue for collaboration.
- Turn-it-in link – multiple submissions for assignments. Could they be allowed? Maybe with the similarity reports removed to prevent students intentionally plagiarising?
- PLAN3001 hard copy submissions – cost \$5 to print. The courses require no drawing or hand annotations so unsure why there needs to be a hard copy submission. This is a weekly and fortnightly submission and is quite a financial burden on students for no particular reason.

- Academic advisors for the school potentially need to be more accessible to meet in person. Potential to hold drop in sessions with the advisors in the future. Advisors could be advertised on the SEES website.

5. Ideas for Collecting Future Feedback

- Task set for all student reps to brainstorm activities that could be used to collect feedback from students around the school. These will be presented to the committee at the next meeting after the mid-semester break.
- Matt's ideas – get funding from student services to provide cupcakes to students who fill in lectures after large courses. Feedback should be collated and high-end rather than just individual level problems. Could be online or on paper.

6. Any other business

7. Date of next meeting

- Next meeting suggested for Monday 29th April at 1pm to discuss ways to collect feedback