

## **Minutes of Staff-Student Liaison Committee, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2012**

**Chair and minutes:** Nick Prior

**Present:** Sarah Rae, Ross Mackenzie, Jenna Spence (all senior honours)

**Apologies:** Marlene Abeling (jun hons); Charlotte Mohn (2<sup>nd</sup> year)

**Matters Arising:** there were no matters arising

### **Innovative Learning Week**

-Positive feedback about the week, particularly the careers evening which provided students with reassurance and guidance about career pathways and was considered more focused and useful than advice from the careers service.

-There was praise for the play put on by sociology in GSLT and a general sense that sociology was more prepared and energetic in ILW than other subject areas. The History subject area was also mentioned as an exemplar here, with a trip to Hadrian's Wall, movies and a walking tour.

-Overall, ILW was seen as more than a gimmick but needed refinement with more subject area events and cross-collaborations between disciplines outside SSPS.

### **Class Feedback**

1) Contemporary Feminist Debates: one of the reps had received an email from a student who raised some concerns about the course and these were discussed in the meeting.

2) Globalization: the content was praised but there were some presentation issues, where lecture slides did not correspond with the context of the lecture.

3) Scotland: SSSC: praise for the content of this course although the venue was remote from CMB. The Pebble Pad experiment was highlighted as successful.

4) Project Presentations: considered a good building block for presentation skills and whilst there was some discussion of the merits of making the course compulsory a voluntary system was seen as preferable. There was some discussion about the need to introduce presentation skills earlier on in the curriculum, perhaps in 2<sup>nd</sup> year.

5) Dispute over 6<sup>th</sup> floor common room. The student who raised this issue was disappointed that she'd not heard at all from the Head of School in response to her letter of complaint.

6) The Sociology of Intoxication: students were pleased with the way the marking anomalies were rectified in this case and were satisfied that they felt listened to.

7) Projects: there was some discussion about ways of improving the transparency of marking projects including making the marking process clear in the handbook and/or having a separate handbook for the dissertation itself with a section on marking procedures.

### **Action Points**

These issues will be fed into ongoing discussions at subject area level about improving student support, our degree programme and especially information about the project and marking systems.

### **Next Meeting**

To be confirmed by incoming SSLC Rep.