



Minutes | Student Staff Liaison Committee – Short Courses (Languages for All)

Date: 13th December 2021, 5.30pm-6.30pm, Zoom Meeting

Present: A. Fernandez Alonso (AFA) (Head of Languages for All), T. Chaurin (TC) (Director of Languages for All) and 3 students from Italian, Japanese & Norwegian Courses

1 Welcome & Introductions
TC welcomed the students, thanked them for their attendance and provided a brief overview of the purpose of the SSLC.
2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting & Matters Arising
There were no minutes to review and no matters arising. No students joined the SSLC meetings in 20-21.
3 Student Feedback – Term 1 Courses & Delivery Mode in Term 2
<p>The Teachers were excellent, and the on-line class worked well.</p> <p>One student was happy that their course would continue on-line in Term 2 as they live abroad and was hoping following courses would continue on-line, another was looking forward to returning to campus as they felt it would benefit their learning, and another felt return to campus was not safe, and hoped The Centre for Open Learning (COL) would continue on-line.</p> <p>TC explained the decision to return to in-person teaching, following the University of Edinburgh (UoE) return to campus plans and Scottish Government guidance. A small proportion of Short Courses students do not live nearby and regrettably will not be able to continue learning with us next term, however, we will continue to offer on-line courses when there is a majority of students who do not live in the region of Edinburgh. We could not organise a consultation exercise due to the size of our programme (we enrolled 1206 students in 105 courses in Term 1) and used postal codes provided by students at enrolment to take these decisions on delivery mode. TC reminded measures taken for a safe environment for staff and students. Understandably, some students may be nervous and ultimately may decide not to enrol. UoE and COL continue to follow the Scottish Government guidelines, and will update the protocol as needed.</p> <p>On-line learning have made language courses more accessible, but also, this means we are now competing with other language centres in the UK, and in the world. However, we will consider delivery mode as we plan future courses, we will do this on a language per language basis (e.g. the demand and the offer in Gaelic is different from that of French or of Turkish).</p>



4 | Student Feedback – New Short Courses Format

One student was disappointed with the shorter session, as the break had an important social dimension, and as this change resulted in less classroom time.

TC explained the rationales for this:

- I. Parity of experience across our language courses as in the past some students had a break and other did not
- II. Pedagogical reasons, with even more focus placed on speaking and group work in class, and new opportunities for additional learning activities “at home”. This allows developing writing skills, and fosters students’ autonomy
- III. Practical reasons, as this allows to offer more courses in the evening to the benefit of our students and staff.

One student found very helpful to have the option of submitting written exercises and get feedback from teacher.

5 | Student Feedback - Certificates

One student suggested COL could offer language certificates.

AFA explained that students can request a certificate of attendance. Formative assessment was piloted in German and in Spanish before the pandemic, but this project was paused.

TC explained we hope to resume this project on evaluation in 22-23, this would the allow us to offer certificates of achievement.

6 | AOB

No other business. TC and AFA thanked the students for their attendance.

7 | Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 5th April 2022.