

Student Faculty Meeting
Minutes
3:30pm on Monday 22nd October 2018

Present

Robin Routledge (Chair)
Catherine Shiells (Minutes)
Glenn Balfour
Mark Button
Adam Smith (L6 SR)
Kyle Thurlow (L6 SR)
Kenneth Davidson (L5 SR)
Hannah Flynn (L5 SR)
Jared Laidlaw (L4 SR)

Apologies

Tracey Enticott (L4 SR)

Welcome

RR welcomed the new SRs and opened with prayer.

1. Course and Module Content

1.1. AS mentioned that content only appeared on Moodle last week for Christian Ethics including the assignment questions. He said that the Moodle module page is still only bare. CS explained that Chester only gave access to faculty for this module last week. CS to speak to EB about uploading more content onto the Moodle page for Christian Ethics.

2. Teaching and Learning Methods

- 2.1. New seating plan has not been well received by 1st and 2nd years.
- 2.1.1. KD stated that students do not have enough space with the new layout. Students would like a double desk each.
- 2.1.2. KD and JL informed us that in Classrooms 1 and 2 it is difficult to see the screen if sat on the row closest to the door. CS to rearrange desks in Classrooms 1 and 2 in a more suitable layout (possibly 2 or 3 rows in the centre of the room).
- 2.2. AS noted that the projector flickers in classroom 2. HF noted that this is only the case for Christian Ethics. CS to let EB know this is the case so that it can be resolved.
- 2.3. Cutting back on laptops in lectures
- 2.3.1. Some lecturers have been asking students not to bring laptops to lectures. SRs questioned why this is the case. RR explained that it is distracting for other students (especially when some students are not using their laptops for academic purposes). Also writing notes by hand

has been shown to aid in memory retention better than note taking on a laptop.

2.3.2. HF pointed out that lecturers can talk fast and students are usually able to type faster than they can write by hand. CS also mentioned that some students certainly do make good use of their laptops in lectures for note-taking.

2.3.3. KT stated that some students including himself prefer writing on paper.

2.3.4. AS stated that in the 3rd year, there was initially a negative reaction to not using laptops but there has not been much comment from students since then.

2.3.5. RR stated that we will continue to monitor this method over the first semester and review at subsequent SFM and BoS.

3. Quality of Learning Environment

3.1. Research Centre Opening times

3.1.1. JL asked if the RC could be opened on the weekends. AS explained that authority for this would be needed from Anne Dyer and Simon Weir.

3.1.2. JL opens until 1:00pm on a Friday but HF explained students would like it open until 9pm. CS to email AD to let her know and find a student volunteer for Fridays.

3.2. Heating

3.2.1. AS asked about heating in RC. MB said that it should be on now in RC and residential centre. If students experience any problems with heating then they should report this to MB.

4. Workload and Assessment

4.1. No comments from the SRs at this time.

5. Relationship between Faculty and Students

5.1. No comments from the SRs at this time.

6. Course Information

6.1. No comments from the SRs at this time.

7. Availability of Resources

7.1. Chester Online Library

7.1.1. CS asked if students are making use of the Chester online library. SRs explained that some students are making good use of it and others are struggling to find full resources online. MB will show 2nd years how to use Online Library in one of his lectures. RFH will show 1st years how to use the Online Library in a Study Skills session.

8. Student Issues

8.1. JL informed us that the dishwasher in the wash-up room is 'out of order' and cannot be used. This means that wash-up after meals takes longer and will be less hygienic. MB to speak to SW to ask to have this sorted.

8.2. JL mentioned that students are not keen on the pictures on the bedroom corridors. MB to look into this.

8.3. JL stated that some students are complaining because not all students are helping with wash-up at mealtimes. MB noted that this culture issue. RR

suggested that positive peer pressure should be a first resort as this can be helpful. HF explained that the teams are too big for everyone to help at the same time. It was noted that students are sometimes late for lectures due to wash up but CS explained that a larger team should allow for flexibility so students need not miss lectures. MB suggested that team leaders are appointed. MB to inform TE of the issues and look into appointing team leaders and reorganise the rota if necessary.

- 8.4. JL enquired about fixing the leaks in the conservatory. GB asked how many leaks there are. SRs estimate 7-8 leaks. RR informed us that this issue was raised today in SLT but explained we cannot do anything about it at this time.
- 8.5. KD stated that the toilets in the residential centre are not clean enough. AS added that this is not helped by the fact that toilets brushes either not available or too dirty to be used. AS also noted that the toilets do not work efficiently and don't flush properly. MB to liaise with SW about improving the toilets.
- 8.6. KD stated that healthier food at mealtimes would be appreciated. AS mentioned that meals tend to be carb-heavy consisting of mainly bread, rice, pasta. MB thanked the reps for bringing these comments to the SFM. RR explained that part of the issue is the cost of meals. Student fees would need to be increased in order for better quality food to be provided.
- 8.7. HF showed concern about whether the fire alarms are working effectively in the bedrooms and dining room. HF also informed us that after the fire alarms were tested in the bedrooms, doors were left unlocked and some doors were simply left ajar over the weekend. MB to ask TE to inform MT of these concerns.
- 8.8. KT mentioned that only one shower works effectively on A/B corridor. GB, MB and CS stated that there is supposed to be a form for available for students to report maintenance issues. SRs have no awareness of this. MB to ask TE to chase this up with KG.
- 8.9. AS stated that in relation to previous issues raised, the male and female showers are often not clean. MB to include this in his conversation with SW regarding the toilets.
- 8.10. AS brought some positive comments from the student body:
 - 8.10.1. Students are enjoying the vending machine in the dining room.
 - 8.10.2. The recent appointment of a gardener to the maintenance team is making a positive difference to the campus grounds.
 - 8.10.3. Students appreciate that tea and coffee is now available for use.
 - 8.10.4. There is higher morale amongst the students so far this year.