

# UNIVERSITY *of York*

## The Department of Health Sciences

### POSTGRADUATE STAFF STUDENT FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held at 12.15pm on Tuesday 22 January 2019  
in Room AEW/102, Department of Health Sciences

**Present:** Lucy Beresford (Y1 AHR PT rep) Tracy Lightfoot Jo Rose  
Claire Gill (PG Departmental rep) (Chair) Amanda Mason-Jones Di Stockdale  
Gordon Igbodo (Y1 MPH FT rep) Amanda Perry Philip Truby (Y1 MPH PT rep)

**SSF/Jan19/01 Introductions: new student reps**

Following introductions, TL welcomed new student reps and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

**SSF/Jan19/02 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Amanda Perry, Lucy Faulkner (PGCert Y2 rep), Tim Parker (MIHA Y2 PT rep).

**SSF/Jan19/03 *Standing Item:* Report on previous term's module evaluations**

TL explained that modules are evaluated each term by means of the Qualtrics on-line survey. An evaluation summary is sent to the respective module leader who prepares a brief report for Graduate School Board. TL thanked all students for their feedback.

**SSF/Jan19/04 *Standing Item:* AHR Issues**

There were no issues to report. However, it was noted that the support from the Introduction to Health Statistics module leaders had been appreciated by students.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>BY WHOM:</b>
Feedback to module team.	Di Stockdale

**SSF/Jan19/05 *Standing Item:* MPH Issues**

**SSF/Jan19/05.1 Taught modules**

It was noted that students favoured Epidemiology becoming a 20-credit module and Public Health Foundations & Practice reduced to a 10-credit module. Also, the timing of the Introduction to Health Statistics exam moving to pre- rather than post-Christmas vacation.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>BY WHOM:</b>
Feedback to the module teams.	Di Stockdale

**SSF/Jan19/05.2 Module choices**

Part-time students had experienced some difficulty in making correct optional module choices at the start of the academic year, in advance of their dissertation topic being agreed, so asked whether more emphasis on module selection could be included at

Induction Day. To support this, TL felt it might be useful for Year 2 students to join the discussions either at Induction or perhaps a drop-in session at the end of Year 1. Supervisors were reminded to discuss optional module selection with their part-time students.

In line with University regulations, TL reminded students that changes to module choices was not permitted after Week 3 of term.

<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>BY WHOM:</b>
Send reminder to students each term that module choices cannot be changed after Week 3.	Di Stockdale
Danielle to consider inviting Year 2 students to join discussions re module choices as part of Induction each year.	Danielle Simpson

**SSF/Jan19/06 Standing Item: PG Cert Health Research & Statistics Issues**

There were no issues to report.

**SSF/Jan19/07 Standing Item: MIHA Issues**

There were no issues to report.

**SSF/Jan19/08 Standing Item: PhD Issues**

**SSF/Jan19/08.1 Induction**

It was noted that students favoured more time to mingle at Induction. TL reported that the whole Induction programme was under review to make it more interactive in future.

**SSF/Jan19/09 Any Other Business**

**SSF/Jan19/09.1 Communication as student reps**

All correspondence from reps to students is currently circulated via the Student & Academic Support office, though the topic of how students can engage more interactively is under consideration. It was noted that Danielle is in discussions with John Blase about the possibility of a student rep section on the VLE.

**SSF/Jan19/09.2 PG Mental Health**

Danielle has been in discussions with GSA re postgraduate mental health. GSA are hosting a Mental Illness Awareness Week from 25 February–1 March which includes a series of open talks. All information will be shared with students via departmental communications and social media.

Danielle has also been in contact with Janaka Jayawickrama regarding non-western approaches to mental health, with an invitation to join MHAWG (link:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/healthsciences/student-intranet/support/mhawg/>)

**SSF/Jan19/10 Chairmanship of Next Meeting**

Philip Truby will Chair the next meeting.

**SSF/Jan19/07 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The date and time of the next meeting will be agreed and circulated.

**POSTGRADUATE STAFF STUDENT FORUM – Tuesday 22 January 2019:  
SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS**

<b>AGENDA ITEM AND TITLE:</b>	<b>ACTION:</b>	<b>BY WHOM:</b>
<b>SSF/Jan19/04 AHR Issues</b>	Feedback positive comments from students to module team	Di Stockdale
<b>SSF/Jan19/05.1 Taught modules</b>	Feedback students' comments to respective module teams	Di Stockdale
<b>SSF/Jan19/05.2 MPH Issues <i>Module choices</i></b>	Send reminder to students each term that module choices cannot be changed after Week 3.	Di Stockdale
	Danielle to consider inviting Year 2 students to join discussions re module choices as part of Induction each year.	Danielle Simpson