

UNIVERSITY *of* York

The Department of Health Sciences

POSTGRADUATE STAFF STUDENT FORUM

Minutes of the Meeting held at 12.15pm on Tuesday 16 February 2016,
in Room ARC/010, Department of Health Sciences

Present: Sadie Bell Tracy Lightfoot Diane Stockdale
Alex Christensen Charlie Lloyd Simon Svenkerud
Seth Francis-Graham Maddy Power
Catherine Hewitt Katie Pybus

In attendance Frank Longdon, YUSU

SSF/Feb16/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Helen Anderson, Emma Edmunds, Sally Evans, Amanda Mason-Jones and Shanie Young.

SSF/Feb16/02 Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday, 19 January 2016

The minutes of the meeting were approved, subject to the rewording of paragraph 1 of *SSF/Jan16/06.01 Introduction to Health Statistics*.

SSF/Feb16/03 Matters Arising

SSF/Jan16/0602 Access to microwave

The department has purchased a microwave for postgraduate students' (and staff) use which has been installed in the 2nd Floor Common Room of the ARRC building.

SSF/Feb16/04 Standing Item: Report on previous term's module evaluations

This was carried forward to the next meeting when module marks and module evaluation feedback will be looked at collectively.

SSF/Feb16/05 Standing Item: AHR Issues

**SSF/Feb16/05.01 Current modules
Systematic Reviews**

Simon reported that several students, largely from the MPH programme, had noticed that some of the guest speakers had a tendency to relay the same introductory information at the start of every lecture and asked if this could be communicated to the module team to avoid repetition each week. CH offered to feedback students' comments to David Torgerson and Catriona McDaid.

| ACTION: | BY WHOM: |
|--|------------------|
| Feedback students' comments to the module leaders. | Catherine Hewitt |

SSF/Feb16/06 Standing Item: MPH Issues

SSF/Feb16/06.01 Current modules

Research Methods

Alex reported that students feel Research Methods needs to be taught in the Autumn rather than Spring term. TL explained that Research Methods was, at one time, a 20-credit module and covered methods in term 1 and statistics in term 2. Last year the decision was made to give it a more MPH-type focus so the 10-credit module 'Introduction to Health Statistics' was introduced in the first term and Research Methods moved to the second term.

It was noted that while the AHR module diet incorporated other methodological modules i.e. Qualitative Methods and Randomised Controlled Trials, MPH students who had not elected either of these as optional modules feel slightly disadvantaged in their level of expertise, especially as they are currently preparing a protocol for the assessment. TL reported that any concerns relating to the assessment should be addressed directly to Jim McCambridge, module leader. In addition, the timing of this module had been discussed at Graduate School Board and will remain unchanged for 2016/17. Module feedback from this year's cohort would be taken into account before either the module or assessment was altered.

On a positive note, Seth reported that the session on 'Information retrieval and handling' by David Brown (JB Morrell Library) had been extremely well delivered and useful to students. Students were encouraged to incorporate this information in the module evaluation form at the end of term.

| ACTION: | BY WHOM: |
|---|-----------------------|
| Queries re assessment to the module leader. | Postgraduate students |

SSF/Feb16/07 Standing Item: PhD Issues

SSF/Feb16/07.01 Current modules

There were no issues to report.

SSF/Feb16/07.02 Short courses

Sadie asked whether there had been any further developments on training opportunities for PhD students. TL to contact Sally Evans regarding the list of topics for workshops/courses that had been compiled by Sadie and Maddy and report back.

It was noted that the 'Advanced Health & Social Statistics I' (previously named 'An Introduction to Applied Multi-level Analysis') module will be running in November 2016.

| ACTION: | BY WHOM: |
|--|-----------------|
| Contact Sally Evans regarding full list of topics for workshops/courses related to training needs. | Tracy Lightfoot |

SSF/Feb16/08 Any Other Business

SSF/Feb16/08.01 Department Rep for Health Sciences

Frank reported that the current Department Rep for Health Sciences, Sorrel Needle (undergraduate student), has stepped down from office and YUSU are seeking to fill the role on an interim basis until the end of the academic year. He asked all postgraduates to consider the vacancy and contact him if interested.

Frank noted that Health Sciences postgraduate students do not tend to engage in student elections. TL acknowledged that while YUSU had been very supportive in the case of student appeals, for example, the reason for disengagement related to the disparity between undergraduate and postgraduate issues. As a result, the department recognises the need for a separate postgraduate departmental rep in Health Sciences and is willing to provide a written statement in support of this. Frank will revisit the matter on behalf of the department and report back.

| ACTION: | BY WHOM: |
|--|-----------------|
| Written statement in support of a postgraduate student rep to Frank Longdon. | Tracy Lightfoot |

SSF/Feb16/09 Chairmanship of Next Meeting

Alex Christensen agreed to chair the next meeting.

SSF/Feb16/10 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 26 April 2016 at 12.15pm in ARC/010.

SSF – TUESDAY, 16 FEBRUARY 2016: SUMMARY OF ACTION POINTS

| AGENDA ITEM AND TITLE: | ACTION: | BY WHOM: |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| SSF/Feb16/05.01 Current modules: Systematic Reviews | Feedback students' comments to the module leaders. | Catherine Hewitt |
| SSF/Feb16/06.01 Current modules: Research Methods | Queries re assessment to the module leader. | Postgraduate students |
| SSF/Feb16/07.02 Short courses | Contact Sally Evans regarding full list of topics for workshops/courses related to training needs. | Tracy Lightfoot |
| SSF/Feb16/08.01 Department Rep for Health Sciences | Written statement in support of a postgraduate student rep to Frank Longdon. | Tracy Lightfoot |