**Economics**

**Staff Meeting**

**Wednesday 10th June 2015**

**TUOM_4COL**

**Hanson Room, Humanities Bridgeford Street**

**1 - 3pm**

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| **Item** | **Discussion** | **Actions** | **Who** |
| 1. **Apologies** | **Ale Saporiti, Kyriakos Neanidis, Adam Ozanne, Dan Rigby, Vitaly Orchshchenko,**  **Paul Middleditch** |  |  |
| 1. **Minutes of previous meeting 25th February 2015** | **Minutes Approved** |  |  |
| 1. **Statement and Report of HoDA (R&S) PM** 2. **Statement and Report of HoDA (T&O) EA** | **Staffing**  Paul said that George Chouliarakis has been granted 3 year’s unpaid leave to take up an advisory role at the Bank of Greece. Richard Agenor has been granted 3 year’s leave from 1st January 2016 and sadly Jo Cho has resigned from his post as of 1st September to return to Korea for family reasons. Paul wished him well and expressed sadness at losing a great colleague.  **Promotions**  Paul confirmed that Peter Backus, Matias Cortes and Ed Manderson have now been confirmed in post after 3 years on probation and offered his congratulations to them all. He said a fourth probationary year has been extended to the other staff members in year 3 of appointment. Other promotions – not finalised until the University Promotions Committee meets later in the month.  **Awards**  Many congratulations to Rachel Griffith who has won University Researcher of the Year award. Paul extended thanks too for bringing some welcome university spotlight onto the DA. Paul said Carlo Reggiani had achieved an excellent result with his paper “Elasticity of demand and behaviour-based price discrimination” –having won - joint with Rosa-Branca Esteves – the 2015 International Journal of Industrial Organisation Best Paper Award (for best paper published in 2014).  **Professional Tutor**  Paul said that interviews took place on the 3rd of June and an offer has been accepted by Victoria Jotham, who will be starting on the 1st of September.  **Chair Searches**  Through Alastair Hall’s initiative a candidate for the Denise replacement Chair has been contacted and responded positively. A visit is planned for September or October. The candidate’s partner is also a potentially interested Chair appointment –in Economic Theory. Possibilities to be further explored in the hoped for visits of both.  Keith and Paul have not yet furthered the Macro Chair search, after discussion with the last visitor failed to progress. This remains on-going.  **Resources for Further Potential Posts**  Resources come from the departures mentioned above and the still vacant Chairs. Also Adam Ozanne – as Trade Union President next year would attract a 40% SoSS saving on salary, and 30% this year and the year after next – details of this being checked by Chris Orme. Against this we have, at the moment, the Professional Tutor post only.  **RRE Progress Report**  Paul said the 2 phases – recalibration of old and reviewing of new 2014 papers – were completed on time and forwarded to SoSS. Feedback – on phase 2 only – will come from the University as early as July as per the recent email sent out from Luke Georghiou. In ballpark figures, Paul said 4\* papers were now at 17%, 3 \* at 63% and 2 \* at 20% this time round.  **PDR Matters**  Paul said that various important suggestions/points have come out of the PDR Meetings so far which he aims to progress.  **Centre for MME+**  The idea of a Centre encompassing our extensive research in Economic Theory/Math Economics has been around for some time – Paul said that since his arrival in January, Klaus  Has been talking to colleagues with a view to action in this direction and has prepared a short paper for last week’s ELT. The broad concept was again supported with further progress planned by Klaus, Antonio and others.  (see circulated document for content of short paper)  **DA Restructuring**  Paul said that the DA UG Director responsibilities will be shared next year between Martyn, Noel and Rachel.  **Staff Survey**  Paul said that Chris Orme sent an email out re: the results of the staff survey only this morning. Paul invited everyone to study the results first and then to please respond to him afterwards with any thoughts or comments. He said SoSS does well compared to other Schools – however he also pointed out that some positivity levels have apparently fallen. Feedback by 26th June please to Paul at the very latest. He suggested staff can place hard copy comments into his post tray if they preferred or send him an email. Areas highlighted in the email:\_   * **Job satisfaction and work experience** issues of stress, work-life balance, conflicting demands and teaching staff being valued as part of the academic community. * **University Goals & Senior Management** issues of overall University communication and performance of the University’s Senior Leadership Team (especially channels communication back up to and receptiveness of the Senior Leadership Team). * **Local Management and Communication** issues of effective communication within the School/DA/units and across units/sections, and dealing with poor performance.   Simon peters requested to know why Market Supplements have never risen. Paul Madden to look into and report back.  Ed talked the meeting briefly through his (see circulated slides for more detail) circulated slides in particular on:-  **UG Review** – phase 1 affecting BEconSc to be rolled out in September 2016.  Progress towards Phase 2 (BA Econ plus other programmes) is looking good.   * **Exams –**running much more smoothly this year * **Positive UEQ Comments** – received in terms of teaching agenda – more engaged. * **New Training for GTA’s** – this will happen from next year * **Exchange with Bocconi University in Italy** * **Warm welcome to our new Professional Tutor** – Victoria Jotham who will start on the 1st of September 2015.   **Student Union Teaching Awards**  Ed said that the following members of staff from Economics had been shortlisted for these this year :-   * Paul Middleditch – Best Lecturer * George Chouliarakis – Best PGR Supervisor * Paul Middleditch – Funniest Lecturer * Adam Ozanne – Best E-Learning Experience   **Pilot NSS – Year 1 and 2** (see circulated slides for further information)  **Issues**  The main issues remained:-   * Promptness/detail of Feedback – top concern * Intellectual Stimulus of the units * Concerns over Tutors * Effectiveness of Tutorials * Lecturer interest and enthusiasm   However he said there was a positive side too – praise for the new modules, praise for the use of Podcasts in Lecturers, praise for BB materials and praise for some individual lecturers. | **Comments from Staff back to Paul by 26th June 2015.**  **Market Supplements** | **All**  **PM** |
| 1. **Report on PGR Matters AS (absent)** 2. **Report on PGT Matters (EH)** 3. **Report on UG Matters (NR)** | Alejandro was unable to attend the meeting. Paul Madden went briefly through the paper that Alejandro circulated before the meeting.  **North West Doctoral Training Centre**  Economics received two DTC studentships – Myroslav Pidkuyko and Louis James  **School/Faculty**  We have offered four SoSS studentships to – Alexandru Ionesco, Alexander Squires, Shuonan Zhang and Esmaeil Babaei Khezerloo. In the last two cases the DA has agreed to top up fees at £10,448.00 per year.  **Recruitment and Progression of current students**  Information available on May 20th indicates that Economics has made 18 PhD offers this year, among which 11 have been accepted. (see circulated document/tables for more detail)  **PhD Studentships**  The DA is also in the process of offering internal funding to – Laura Takeuchi. She recently received the University Research Impact Scholarship - £18,000 for three years. The DA funding still allows to offer funding to at least two more students. We are in the process of taking final decisions, dependent on exam marks and internal review performances.  **Other Business**  Angelos Angelopoulos, Jonathan Gibson, Swati Virmani, Humna Ahsan, David Chivers, and Kasia Werner have completed their studies and they have been awarded their PhDs in  Economics.  Emranul talked the meeting through his circulated slides. covering :-  **Admissions**  Better than last year on all the masters programmes.  **Home Students**  Emranul said these had almost doubled in number from last year with overseas students at 79. He said the Postgraduate Taught Experience results were not available yet but he could report that SoSS had a 63% response rate – which was much higher than the rest of the School.  He said that from the 1st of July course materials will be available on line and posted to the website and that students are being made aware of this date. The test is now compulsory not optional. Emranul said that pre-session maths and stats courses have bow been upgraded and renamed.  (see slides for further information)  Noel talked briefly through his slides regarding UG matters:- (see circulated slides for further information)  **Response to BME Survey Report**  **(The Educational Experiences of Black and Minority Ethnic Students at Manchester)**  Noel said that the Runnymede Trust had conducted a survey which had provided some interesting conclusions regarding BME student attainment and experience. A gap in performance had been identified. This gap is actually smaller in Manchester than average across UK HEIs, and slightly smaller within SoSS than across the University as a whole. The issues raised in the report have special relevance to economics since this DA has more BME students than other DAs in SoSS.  Noel said the key findings concluded:-   * That there wasn’t any direct discrimination * General systematic problems of ‘non-traditional’ students were also related to class and gender. * Systematic issues impacted more heavily on BME students * Issues in Academic practice and process needed to be addressed including: Pastoral Care Issues/Academic Issues/Personal/Background issues/Broader issues of engagement.   **Recommendations:**  **Pastoral Care –** safe spaces to discuss issues, academic advisors trained to pick up on issues – advertising the availability of the University Counselling Service.  **Social Engagement Events –**Daytime events, Alcohol free events were a good idea. Economics had already mounted such events e.g. Economics Extra, Lunch with the Economist. Possibility raised of Economics Field trips.  **Academic Services –** Reduce information overload, put on more study skills workshops for all students.  **Policy on Marking, Comments on Proposed Revisions**  Noel said the policy on 1st and 2nd marking –now applied to all summative assessments. Policy explicitly considers penalties for not following exam rubric – but not word count penalties for essays. Sampling for internal moderation – suggestions about maximum sample. |  |  |
| 1. **Report on Social Responsibility (PM)** 2. **A.O.B.** | Paul was unable to attend today’s meeting. Simon Peters spoke on his behalf and went briefly through Paul’s circulated paper.  **DA Level Prizes**  Does Economics want to set up prizes for students for work around social responsibility?  **Pilot Impact and Social Responsibility Fund (ISR**)  The School of Social Sciences has launched a new impact and social responsibility funding scheme – ISR – as part of its commitment to Manchester 2020 University strategic plan. This offers small grants with an upper limit of £500.00 to individuals and groups in support of activities that increase the impact and reach of research and highlight the role of UoM and its staff in promoting and encouraging social responsibility. Please contact Paul directly if you have applied/wish to apply for this.  **Social Responsibility in the Curriculum Flagship Call**  The Associate Dean of External Relations and the Humanities External Relations Committee – HERC invite proposals for initiatives under the theme of  Social Responsibility in the Curriculum (see circulated document for more information)     1. Simon Peters said that because equipment had not been monitored closely, the DA had ‘lost’ some of its laptops – in light of this Jackie will organise an official signing in and out of borrowed projectors/other equipment within the department. 2. Martyn Andrews wanted to thank both Paul Madden and Ed Amann, on behalf of everyone in the department for all their hard work and input into the DA in their role as HoDAs. |  |  |
| 1. **Date of Next Meeting** | **Wednesday 14th October 2015 3 – 5pm venue TBA** |  |  |