

Student Library User Group
16.00 Thursday 15 Feb 2018
Committee room, Students Association

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Student Representatives:

Zachary Davis (Director of Education), Nicole Simonetti (Arts/Divinity), Erin Philips (Biology), Kirsten Schauff (Classics), Alice Booth (Earth & Environmental Studies), Lauren Bellatti (English), Sophia Hill (Film Studies), George Beale (Geography & SD), Hailey Ogle (History), Jake Haycocks (Mathematics & Statistics), Nathan Titterton (Medicine), Caitlin MacDonald (Modern Languages), Julia Madore (Museum & Gallery Studies), Alisa Danilenko (Physics & Astronomy) and Hannah Tucker (Psychology & Neuroscience).

Apologies:

Zeynep Kaserci (Art History), Jacob Pepper (Chemistry), Arnold Haidu (Computer Science), Cameron Smith (Divinity), Yasmina Souaid (Economics & Finance), Gaby Levey (Film Studies), James Ellis (Geography & SD), Sarah Gharib (IR), Philip Caraci (Management), Andrew Mitchell (Mathematics & Statistics), Carissa Jacobs (Medicine), Freya Goble (Philosophy), Micaela Berglund (Physics & Astronomy) and Seaf Hartley (Social Anthropology)

Library:

Hilda McNae (Senior Librarian – Academic Liaison), Graeme Hawes (User Services Manager) and Louise Pidcock (Minutes).

Apologies:

Vicki Cormie (Senior Librarian – Academic Liaison).

The minutes from the last meeting were approved and all action points were carried out.

1) Feedback from last meeting (Reading Lists/Orientation/Short Loan) (HM)

HM thanked everyone who had gathered feedback on the issues discussed at the last meeting (online reading lists, orientation and short loan) and passed it on the Academic Liaison team. She said they would still welcome any further comments so that all Schools were represented. This year the Library is acquiring a new Library Management System and this would provide the Library with an opportunity to offer different loan periods. It would therefore be useful to hear further thoughts on the loan periods students would most like.

2) Library Survey (GH)

GH thanked all the students who had filled out the Library survey so far. Last year's survey had a disappointing number of respondents but this year there have already been twice as many. GH asked members to ask their fellow students to participate. All free-text comments are read and GH said it is a great chance for students to have their views on the Library heard. The survey closes at the beginning of March. ZD said he would send a link to all the school presidents.

3) Participation in the University Review of Learning & Teaching (HM/ZD)

HM reminded the group about the University Review on Learning & Teaching that would be taking place on Thursday 26 April. The purpose of the review is to ensure that the University continues to provide excellent teaching and learning. The Panel will be made up of both internal representatives and externals from other University libraries.

Sessions are scheduled for both students and academic staff to provide feedback on their experiences of the Library.

ZD informed the reps that he would be asking them to identify one undergraduate and one postgraduate from their schools to attend the review. ZD said he would send a reminder out to all Library reps and school presidents to confirm the details.

4) Seat Hogging (GH)

A couple of years ago a seat hogging campaign was run in the main Library involving parking tickets being left on desks. This year a campaign was held at St Mary's Library. Students leaving their belongings unattended at a desk for longer than an hour had them removed from the desk. This seemed to have resolved the issue.

A similar campaign has been run from the start this week at Martyrs Kirk. Unfortunately, it is not possible to repeat this exercise in the Main Library because of the high numbers of study spaces. GH asked for any feedback from the group. It was asked if it would be possible to put up signage stating not to leave personal possessions at a desk unattended for longer than an hour. It was also remarked unattended items are also a security risk.

5) Study Space at the Gateway (HM)

HM highlighted the study space available at the Gateway building in the basement. This space has been available for a couple of years and is open to all students. She said management of this facility would soon be under the control of the Library. The Library will be promoting the space with all comments on the space coming to the Library instead of the school of Management. Study spaces come in a mixture of settings, individual study seats, informal seats and desks for students to work in a group and the building is open till 9:30pm. Entry after 5pm is via swipe access. Signage and vending facilities are currently being looked at to see if they can be improved.

6) Smoking at the Main Library (GH)

The move of the benches used for smoking to the south side of the Library has proved successful. There seems to have been no problems with this change and it has created a cleaner and fresher environment for people entering the building.

7) St Mary's Opening Hours (GH)

Last semester St Mary's Library extended its opening hours to 19.45, Monday-Friday and also during the two weekends prior to exams. Although there had been reasonable numbers of students in at these times, unfortunately there is no budget to continue with this. GH said that he hoped to repeat this extended opening next semester.

8) AOCB

It was asked if the week before term commences after Christmas it would be possible to open longer hours than the present time Mon-Fri 9-5pm or even just open longer hours the weekend before start of semester 2. GH said he would be quite happy to give this a try.

It was asked if journals and books relating to Geology could be placed closer together rather than in separate locations as it wasn't clear where to find the Geology journals GH said that the Library was looking at the issue of signage to help make locating items easier.

GH reminded the group all books could be kept for a week even after they are recalled.

The Library's Customer Service Excellence accreditation event will take place over lunchtime on Thursday May 10th. GH would welcome volunteers, lunch will be provided. He asked for names to be sent to him.

9) The next meeting will be on Thursday, 5th April 16.00-17.00.