Staff/Student Committee Meeting

Wednesday 6th March

Present:

Laura McKechnie 1st Year Finance
Gideon Kingsley 1st Year Accounting
Youssef Hounat 1st Year Accounting
Allison Ramsay 2nd Year Accounting & Finance
Amy Hume 2nd Year Accounting & Finance
Anca Bicuti 2nd Year Finance
Christina MacLeod 2nd Year Accounting & Finance
Jamie Colville 2nd Year Accounting & Finance
Ellidh Mayhew 2nd Year Accounting & Finance
Ross Binnie 2nd Year Accounting & Finance
Craig Bradley 2nd Year Accounting & Finance
Joshua Si Yi 2nd Year Finance
Quan
Stephanie Phin 2nd Year Finance
James Wallace 2nd Year Finance
Juliane Thamm (Staff)
John Dunn (Staff)
Katherine Duffy (Staff)

Reports from Year Representatives

HONOURS YEAR – no student representatives attended the meeting, Katherine has collated their written submission below

ACCOUNTING

General Comments

Some Students feel that there is a lack of consensus between staff on the importance of the methodology section in the dissertation. They feel that the methodology sessions that have been held should be compulsory. Some Students prefer the idea of a weekly hand – in as it encourages Students to look at the readings required for the class. Some Students have concern on the feedback policy, they feel it is not followed in certain classes and feedback should be given much quicker than when they receive it.
AG419 Accounting & Risk

The students find the case study & book review interesting and they feel it will be helpful for exam revision. Students appreciate the guest lecturer as it gives them insights into different things and they find it interesting to hear about the practical applications of the things they learn.

Andrea’s comments: Thank you for your positive feedback. It is much appreciated. I am pleased you are finding the class interesting and enjoying the insights from practice. Thank you.

FINANCE

General Comments

Some Students feel that the group size for the AG430 Corporate Financing & AG431 Corporate Investment assignments should have been the same as they are now trying to find a new member or lose a member of their groups. Some Students have concern on the feedback policy, they feel it is not followed in certain classes and feedback should be given much quicker than when they receive it.

Feedback from John Capstaff: I was surprised to see that “some students” had concerns about feedback. I think they should be more specific about exactly what the concern is. Speaking solely for Corporate Investment, feedback is provided within 2 weeks of submission. There are no exceptions to this.

AG431 Corporate Investment

Students like the notes provided in class and feel that the fill in the blanks exercises keep the class engaged.

THIRD YEAR – ACCOUNTING – no student representatives attended the meeting, Katherine has collated their written submission below

AG305 Advanced Accounting 2

No 3rd year Accounting representative present at the meeting, nor did we receive any comments by email.

THIRD YEAR – FINANCE – no student representatives attended the meeting, Katherine has collated their written submission below

AG307 Treasury Management and International Finance

The Students find the lecture notes used in the class very informative and structured, they also find the hand written notes and latest price futures and markets beneficial. The International Students
find this class easy to follow because of the structure of the class. The Students feel that the organisation of the class and the lecturers experience has made this class a lot easier than first expected and they would like it if other classes could be run in this format. They find the large workshop helpful as it there is time to go over all of the questions. They find the exercises given in class very useful as it helps them to remember equations and the process of solving. They also found the sample class test that was distributed very helpful. Lastly, the Students commented on the lecturers good timekeeping and use of Myplace.

Some Students find the pace of the class quite fast, so it can be difficult to follow. They would find prepared notes prior to the lecture so they can concentrate more instead of trying to copy notes. Some Students had an issue with the Finance and Economics class tests taking place on the same day, they feel that there should be more communication between Departments.

SECOND YEAR – ACCOUNTING

AG208 Intermediate Management Accounting

The Students like how the lectures are relevant to all of the examples given. They find the lectures and tutorials interesting and they appreciate the solutions provided and the past paper they are given.

Some Students feel the textbook is too dense.

AG209 Taxation

The Students thoroughly enjoy the lectures and like the lecturer’s personality and humour.

Most of the Students have an issue with the drilling that can be heard in the lecture theatre (TG310), they find it difficult to hear the lecturer. Sometimes there are errors in the solutions and in the class test, they feel it would be beneficial if someone could check these over prior to them being printed. They feel that the Myplace site could have more detailed information and class materials, as well as more regular updates. Furthermore, the students requested a clearer indication of the lecturer’s office hours.

SECOND YEAR – FINANCE

AG211 Portfolio Analysis

Students find the class very interesting, they like the notes that have been provided in certain weeks.

The students felt it was less than ideal that the lectures were delivered by different people with very different styles (and different types of material accompanying these lectures) giving an overall inconsistent impression of the class. They feel the class has been badly organised and that more information should have been provided on the assignment at the start of the Semester. In general the students were very concerned about their assignment, as they felt the instructions kept changing with things being added on later. Also posting it on the discussion forum rather than on the class main myplace page caused confusion. They feel very uncertain about what is expected of them and worry about how they’ll perform in this assignment. They also commented that the tutors and in the
 labs no one seems to know much about the assignment. Some expressed concern over the different Excel skill level of the tutors. Finally, some students felt there was little connection between the lectures and the recommended textbook.

**AG212 Financial Analysis**

The Students are really enjoying this class. They find the use of analysing real financial statements very beneficial and complemented the lecturer’s teaching style.

Some of the Students feel that smaller tutorial groups would be more helpful than the one large workshop. All of the Students felt that the lecture room (GH554) is unsuitable as there are not enough seats (Students stand during lecture) and there are lots of pillars so it very difficult to see.

**FIRST YEAR – ACCOUNTING**

**AG111 Accounting Technologies**

The Students find both the lecturers (Sem 1 & 2) very good and like both of their teaching styles. The slides used in the lectures are very helpful and useful for studying. The students have thoroughly enjoyed the tutorials for this class and find all of the work covered very interesting.

Some Students found the annual report project quite difficult and did not feel the quantity of work required was reflected in the weighting of the report towards the final mark. The report has the same weighting as the UB Test, which they found much easier than the report. Some Students felt they did not put in a lot of effort into the report as the weighting was low suggesting to them less effort required.

Students suggested to perhaps offering a separate session on working with FAME, as some still felt unsure about how to use this database. Lastly, students commented on the noise from drilling and other building work disrupting lectures in TG314.

Christine’s comments: Many thanks for your generous and thoughtful feedback. I genuinely appreciate these comments which will help to ameliorate AG111. I can see that introducing a session on FAME (and perhaps other accounting information providers) would be very useful. And I will certainly have a think about mark allocation in light of your comments. Next year’s students will certainly benefit from your input.

**AG105 Introduction to Finance and Financial Statistics**

Students find the class interesting and like both lecturers. They like how the class relates statistics to the finance world. Students enjoy the tutorials and like the tutors teaching methods particularly Jun and William.

There was a general complaint from all of the Students about the drilling in the lecture theatre (TG314), they often struggle to hear the lecturer especially if you are sitting at the back of the lecture theatre. Some Students find the notes taken in class confusing after the lectures. They would appreciate it if past papers for the class test in Semester 2 were available on Myplace. For a small number of tutorials students feel that there should be more student as they would find it more interesting and would appreciate further discussion as to how to arrive at solutions. (It also appears that it is these groups who suffer from the poor room provision in Livingston Tower.) Students also suggested to add further “By hand” problems to the questions for the first two tutorial sessions.
Juliane’s comments: Thank you for your feedback. We have raised the issues of drilling in Thomas Graham Building repeatedly with Estates Management, and it seems works is now finished, so there should be now further disruption to classes. We have also, unfortunately unsuccessfully, tried to get another room for the Tuesday tutorial in Livingston Tower. All students affected had been contacted and offered to switch to an alternative tutorial group. We will continue to liaise with room bookings to avoid a repeat of this situation.

As for the tutorial questions, I’ll take this on board, however I would like to point out that extra “by hand” practice questions are already available on myplace.

FIRST YEAR – FINANCE

AG151 Introduction to Finance and Accounting

The Students find the examples given in class useful, up to date and relevant. They like how detailed the lecture notes are and how they are added to during the lectures. Both lecturers are very helpful and easy to contact. Students like how every question in covered in the tutorials and find the group discussions beneficial.

Some of the students feel that some of the tutorials are very fast and are therefore hard to follow if you are struggling with a certain area. They sometimes struggle when studying with Andy’s notes as they can’t remember why they have noted certain things after the lectures, e.g., it is sometimes unclear where certain data comes from. Lastly, Students feel they did not require the suggested book as they do not use it.

Additional Comments:

All students wanted to express their compliments and thanks to the departmental administrative staff, who they always find very friendly and helpful when dealing with student enquiries and problems.

Semester 1 classes –

AG207 Intermediate Financial Accounting

The majority of the Students feel that the exam has too much weighting in this class and if you have a bad day in your exam you are likely to have a bad mark in the class, some of the Students feel this could be resolved with a class test. They also feel a class test would be beneficial as the exam is the first opportunity they get to write an essay under exam conditions. There was a slight concern with the marks for the class as they were much lower than what Students received in other classes. Some students also have concerns that their bad mark for this class could affect their chances of studying abroad for a year. They feel that example essays or an example essay structure would have been helpful.

John’s comments: The marks were a huge disappointment for this class and we will consider the possibility of a class test for next year. Having said that, it was stressed repeatedly throughout the semester that all of the tutorial work was vital and that it could and should be used for diagnostic purposes as well as to develop an ordered approach to questions at this level. Every tutorial required
students to prepare answers to practical questions and to develop ideas and arguments for discussion. Students were asked to reflect on their progress and to seek advice before the Christmas break if they were finding the material difficult. It would be an easy matter for any student to gain 99% of the benefit from a class test by attempting to complete tutorial questions within time limits. It should be stressed that the exam questions were essentially adapted tutorial questions and that many of the tutorial questions had been identified as being from past exam papers.

We will look for appropriate readings and other material for students entering the second year.

**General Comments:**

2nd Year Students feel that they would have benefitted from some warning about the jump from 1st – 2nd year. They feel that if more of the 2nd year material was covered in 1st year it would not have been as difficult. Some Students also thought that suggested reading for the summer between 1st and 2nd year would have been beneficial.