

**Department of Statistics**  
**PhD SSLC meeting**  
Thursday 12 November 2009

**Attended:**

James Abdey ( outgoing student representative) JA

Pauline Barrieu (chair) PB

Malvina Marchese (incoming student representative) MM

Ian Marshall (minutes) IM

## **1. Postgraduate Research Experience Survey**

Discussion took place regarding the recently published Postgraduate Research Experience Survey 2009 Results: Statistics. It was agreed that the results were generally favourable, but there are some areas of possible improvement in relation to research (Tables 6 and 8 of the report).

Response to the survey from students in Statistics was very low. A better response will provide us with a more accurate picture. It was asked if the department could offer a prize as an incentive for the next survey. It was not known if this would be allowed, but it will be investigated.

*Action: To be investigated.*

It was asked if a Time Series course or workshop might be a possible addition to the department's provision for the future. This will be investigated, although a definitive answer cannot be given at this time.

*Action: To be investigated.*

## **2. LGS and LTCC Courses**

The take-up for courses offered by LGS and LTCC in the 2009/10 academic session has been low. Possible conflicts with dates of teaching and other existing commitments.

*Action: To be discussed with Supervisors.*

### **3. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs)**

Comments by students last year, regarding ST102 particularly, were not always universally positive. ST102 is attended by students from other departments who may not find all content relevant and stimulating, but similar problems are experienced across all departments.

Not all PhD students are natural teachers, but confidence grows with practice. Teaching co-ordination and training is in place. Teaching observers can pick up on problems or areas requiring improvement.

### **4. Professional Development**

The Research Administrator will remind students once each term about the services and resources offered by the LSE Careers Service, including the role of the PhD and post-doctoral careers advisor.

*Action: IM to action this.*

### **5. Funding Opportunities for Research Students**

Information about funding opportunities is sent out to students by the Research Administrator and it is very important that students read these emails and retain them for future reference. The Financial Support Office offers daily drop-in sessions in the Student Services Centre and their website contains a lot of useful information.

Students who are experiencing genuine financial hardship should speak to the PhD Programme Director, the Research Administrator or attend a Financial Support Office drop-in session for advice.

### **6. Poster Events and Presentations**

The poster events will continue as at present and students are encouraged to participate. The yearly Presentation Event will also continue as previously.

The department will try to organise another joint Statistics / Economics presentation day.

Students are encouraged to attend seminars and ideally should not only seek out ones specific to their own areas of research.

*Action: Joint Statistics / Economics presentation day to be investigated.*

## **7. Any Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

## **8. Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place in the Lent Term, ideally on a date prior to the Research Students Consultative Forum on 25 February 2010.