

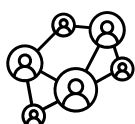
Student Wellbeing Classroom Resource

Student-Staff Liaison Committees

Developed by:
UNSW Canberra



Engaging
Large Cohorts



Connecting Students
with their School



Feedback and
Discussion

Description

Since every cohort of students is different, feedback at the end of the semester (via myExperience surveys) does little to improve the learning outcomes for that particular cohort. A Student-Staff liaison committee (or SSLC) can provide students with a valuable platform to communicate with staff on matters relating to issues in their course as well as academic performance and wellbeing of their classmates. All Schools at UNSW Canberra run SSLC meetings consisting of one or two student representatives from every course taught by the School, an academic staff member from the School who facilitates the meeting, and a professional staff member who organizes the meeting and takes notes on issues raised. Student representatives provide feedback on their courses, including the pace of the lectures, quality of teaching material, and standard of assessment. A list of potential 'action items' (as identified by the staff representatives as a result of the student comments), as well as more general student feedback are provided promptly to teaching staff via the discipline coordinators, allowing staff to implement student suggestions in 'real time'. School responses to the action items are then passed back to the SSLC student representatives in order to 'close the loop' and to let the students know that their voices have been heard.

Implementation

- Nominate student representatives in weeks 1 or 2: it can be helpful to rotate student representatives to better ensure interested students have an opportunity to participate
- A brief induction meeting or induction pack for student representatives is helpful, so that students know what is expected of them in this role
- Encourage student representative to communicate with cohort ahead of committee meeting
- Hold SSLC meetings in week 3 or 4, and again in week 9 or 10 (in a 13/14-week Semester system)
- Student feedback is provided promptly to teaching staff via the discipline coordinators, allowing staff to implement student suggestions in 'real time'
- SSLC student representatives are given feedback, outlining how action items have been addressed.

Evidence of effectiveness

- Continual course improvement: Academics receive early feedback on how their courses are progressing, rather than having to wait until the end of semester, and are able to adjust aspects of their courses immediately.
- Expect that SSLC feedback helps improve student satisfaction with their courses.
- Expect that SSLC helps students feel more connected with their School and its academics.

Dr Leesa Sidhu is a member of the Education Focussed Student Wellbeing Community of Practice (CoP). To find out more about the CoP, please contact the EF Team: EF@unsw.edu.au