Work on the undergraduate supervision system: Michaelmas Term 2023 progress report

Following the suspension of the campaign’s call for a supervisor boycott for Michaelmas Term 2023, regular talks have resumed between College representatives and members of the “Justice for College Supervisors” (J4CS) campaign that have been very constructive. An early point of discussion was the College representatives’ proposal to create a programme of work agreed jointly with J4CS campaigners to address the matters they have raised, which will progress this academic year alongside the recently commissioned Review of Teaching by the University and Colleges.

We wish to inform supervisors of the progress achieved so far in that programme of work:

1. In January a supervisor workload survey will be circulated to those who supervised in 2022/23 or have supervised so far this year. We wish to understand better your motivation to supervise, your experiences of workloads and pay rates, and how you can be better supported as supervisors. This data will be used to assist the programme of work and teaching review.

2. A new payment rate methodology for undergraduate supervisions is currently being developed. It is hoped that a transparent and justifiable methodology can be considered by all Colleges for implementation in 2024/25.

3. Guidance for Colleges, Faculties, and Departments is being developed, the aim of which is to provide a clear framework for those who supervise undergraduates. It is hoped draft recommendations for this guidance can be consulted on by the appropriate governance structures in good time to allow implementation in 2024/25.

Other tasks on the programme of work are at too early a stage to report on.

Joint statements of meetings between College representatives and J4CS campaigners can be found at the bottom of this webpage on the Senior Tutors’ website. Future updates will be sent via the mailing list ucam-college-ug-supervisor-info@lists.cam.ac.uk, open to those who have an @cam.ac.uk e-mail address.

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College representatives meeting with the J4CS campaigners
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