Feedback to CPAD, NdV, ISAC

Andrea Romanino, Director

Anonymity of the questionnaire and participation

- CPAD: Uno dei fattori che possono avere un impatto sulla partecipazione non completa al questionario è il timore di non vero anonimato.

- ISAC: We heard concerns that students are unwilling to report problems because it is not obvious that anything will be done and because they are nervous about retribution.

- Questionnaire results are indeed anonymous. On top of that, results will be randomised / unified to avoid tracking correlations.

- This hopefully (and this meeting) will also promote participation.

PS

- Elections: they are meant to ensure representation to students

- Concerns expressed by ISAC are serious. "Safety" network:

  - PhD coordinator, Area coordinator

  - Ombudspersons, Confidential counsellor, CUG

  - Director

Access to SISSA psychological support

- CPAD points out complaints on accessing the service, queue times

- 2018:   1 psychologist, 4h per week

- 2019:   1 psychologist, 6h per week

- now: 2 psychologists, 12h per week

- January: 1 psychologist replaced

- the problem seems solved

- also: new regulations for benefits >
  possible reimbursement of health costs, including therapy

Wellbeing

- CPAD: Uno studente su tre non si sente "felice, in salute e motivato". Questa elevata incidenza è probabilmente influenzata dall'emergenza Covid, come emerge almeno in parte dai commenti liberi.

- NdV: sottolinea gli esiti relativi alle due domande sul sulla qualità di vita alla SISSA introdotte quest'anno … quasi un terzo degli alunni lamenta condizioni di benessere lavorativo non soddisfacenti.

- Meeting with psychologists, confidential counsellor, CUG President to evaluate possible trends and actions

- General meeting of the support network (December)

- Further input from the students representatives welcome

- Closely monitor this parameter

Internationalisation

- CPAD: nei commenti liberi, si riscontra una prevalenza di questo problema per gli studenti stranieri, che si sentono esclusi da molte interazioni sociali e lavorative per via dell'uso costante dell'italiano negli ambienti SISSA.

- NdV: la percentuale di coloro che dichiara di essersi sentito discriminato è del 4.5%, nella maggioranza dei casi la discriminazione percepita è imputabile al mancato utilizzo della lingua inglese nei luoghi di lavoro.

- Review of selection criteria for Admin staff in contact with scientific community

- [Obstacles: governing bodies, relations with local authorities]

Teaching offer

- CPAD: Quality of PhD teaching "high" or "very high": 92%. But criticalities in a few PhD

- ISAC: coherent and broad programme, with broad initial courses, that allow students to gain at least an understanding of the language of different fields, followed by the more intensive, narrower training

- The statistical analysis identified criticalities in two teaching areas (PhD or sets of PhDs), see below.

Teaching area 1

- Actions foreseen by the faculty to make the teaching offer more complete

- Two new recruits will integrate the teaching offer

- Temporary detachment from another University to replace the teaching of an on-leave faculty

- Students have been asked to fill a form to point out what they feel is missing → 2 courses implemented [not advanced enough?]

- A list of the planned courses was provided

Teaching area 2

- Committee involving PhD coordinators + CPAD coordinator + external authoritative scientist with the following assignment

    - Collect the list of courses offered in the three PhD, with programmes and lengths in hours ✓

    - Based on that, evaluate, in the light of ISAC and CPAD observations, their completeness in view of providing an adequate background and the tools for PhD work and subsequent career

    - Evaluate the possibility to integrate the teaching offer and allow students to follow courses beyond their PhD

- At each step, consult the PhD representatives

Quality of supervision

- CPAD: in large majority very good, but with some criticalities

- Guarantee the freedom of the choice of the supervisor (with the possibility for the potential supervisor to decline)

- Extend the survey to former students

  - build a database (under way)

Other issues pointed out

- Interdisciplinary

  - opportunities offered but not always taken advantage of

- Knowledge of services (CUG, ombudspersons)

  - too little information or too much information?

- Future in academia / public research vs other PA vs private sector

  - issue or not depending on whether it is a choice or a necessity