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.
• 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