

Student Feedback Summary Report- Department of Commercial Law

Introduction

This Summary Report is based on the feedback given by the students on the subjects coming under the Department of Commercial Law. This information was taken from the students in the academic years 2019 and 2020. In the year 2019, the feedback was made manually by distributing feedback forms to the students through the relevant lecturers and collecting them back at a deadline given to them. In some other cases, students were given the feedback forms at the end of their examinations at the examination hall of the faculty of law. The year 2020 was heavily affected by the pandemic situation compelling the universities for a compulsory closure and changing the mode of teaching from on-site face to face teaching to an on-line distance teaching and learning system. Hence, in 2020, student feedback was asked via LMS where there had been very poor responses from the side of the student community.

The Department of Commercial Law engages in teaching subjects coming in the third year and final year only. The Department handles Business Law and Investment Law, some optional subjects coming under the curriculum of the third year, and Intellectual Property Law, Tax Law and Company Law, few other optional subjects falling in the curriculum of the Final year.

Method of Getting Feedback

The feedback forms manually distributed and uploaded to LMS required responses from the students for the following matters of the particular subject. They were asked whether the lecturer;

- a. Clear and understandable and well presents the lecture
- b. Simulate students to think independently
- c. Make an effort to get students involved in class discussions
- d. Present materials in a well-organized way and stresses important points
- e. Makes good use of handouts, examples, problem-situation, reading materials and teaching aids.
- f. Gives the good coverage of subject matter
- g. Returns written works promptly
- h. Shows a thorough knowledge of the subject and always well-prepared
- i. Is punctual and reliable (attendance, no cancellation of lectures)
- j. Is readily accessible to students outside formal classes.

And, against the particular statement, student's responses were expected under the options, as to whether they **agree**, **disagree** or **neutral**.

Subjects taken by the students:

As all subjects coming under the Department of Commercial Law are optional/elective, it is important to have a brief analysis of the subjects offered by the students in the 3rd and 04th year in 2019 and 2020.

Department of Commercial Law

Subject	2019			2020		
	SM	TM	EM	SM	TM	EM
Intellectual Property Law	151	04	27	144	-	22
Company Law	40	10	07	23	15	24
Tax Law	26	02	11	27	02	05
Investment Law	87	02	13	23	02	18
Business Law	56	03	21	127	20	26

Feedback Analysis in 2019

As mentioned above, this feedback was conducted manually by distributing the feedback forms among the students.

Number of students responded has been, as a percentage, over 70 across all the subjects.

- Almost all the students agreed about the subject knowledge and delivery of well-prepared lecture by the lecturer.
- Over 70% agree that lecturers in all subjects give the good coverage of the subject matter
- Over 70-80 agree that lecturers make an effort to get students involved in class discussions
- Over 60% agree that the lecturer presents a clear and understandable lecture
- Over 60% agrees that the lecturer presents materials in a well-organized way and stresses important points.

Students, however, have some concerns about the following points;

- The punctuality and reliability (attendance, no cancelation of lectures)
- Accessibility to students outside formal classes
- Return written works promptly

Comment:

It was found that the lecturers identified by the students as very good in their other performances relating to teaching, have been named by the students as not good in returning their written works timely.

- Some students have not agreed with the statement that lecturers make good use of handouts, examples, problem-situation, reading materials and teaching aids (This idea was given by around 30% of students)

Feedback Summary in year 2020

In this year, students were compelled to study with many disruptions and difficulties due to spreading of unexpected pandemic situation in the country and they were also compelled to participate in lectures via on-line using virtual classrooms, a system that had not properly experienced by them early. It was found that their responses to feedback forms delivered on-line, compared with the previous year experience, was not satisfactory. However, some more information was able to be collected from the students while they were given some additional time to comment on the success of the new system and their ability in fitting with it. Out of the limited responses given by them, the following factors can be highlighted.

- Around 35% students commented in disagreement with the statement that the lecturers make good use of handouts, examples, problem situations, reading materials and teaching aids.

Comment:

The reason behind this disagreement could be that at the early stage of on-line teaching, some lecturers who were not sufficiently smart in handling online lecturing via LMS platform, had used various methods in covering their lectures such as uploading pre-recorded lectures, sometimes uploading in LMS only the reading materials-not delivering lectures and using other online platforms like WhatsApp in sharing materials and recorded lectures.

- Same percentage of students (35%) has commented disagreeing with the statement that the lecturer gives a good coverage of the subject matter.

Comment:

This could have been the same reason as some lecturers are good in IT and hence handled on-line lectures in smart and prompt manner while others who are not good in working out in virtual platforms struggled by postponing and cancelling some of their lectures; in result, they failed covering their lectures on time.

Apart from these major concerns, there were several other comments from the students that can be categorized as 'general concerns' of the students regarding on-line lectures such as insufficient signal coverage, power-cuts, non-availability of smart phones, over-loading lecturing etc.

Actions taken/remedies introduced in response to the student feedback

- Some discussions were made with the lecturers concerned on how some students concerned could be addressed. e.g., how to avoid delays in returning students assignments; steps to be taken in minimizing cancelling and postponing lectures
- Arrangements were made, in consultation with the faculty, at department level, to conduct on line lectures at the faculty premises.
- A constant dialog among the teachers of the Department on how students concern about several issues of on-line teaching could be addressed were maintained at the Departmental meetings held in every month.
- Possible steps were taken, when allocating subjects to the lecturers, to encourage co-teaching of a subject if the particular subject teacher was seen over-burden of his/her teaching.
- In order to address students' concern over the coverage of subject matter properly, when allocating subjects to lecturers, in a subject, separate discussion classes were allocated to a different lecturer who is capable of teaching the same subject so that he/she could be able to conduct discussions of the subject as well as to cover 'missing parts' of the subject lecturer, if any.



Head/

Department of Commercial Law

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