

**Department of International History**  
**Postgraduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee Meeting**  
**4 February 2016, NAB.8.02**

In attendance:

Professor Janet Hartley (Head of Department)  
Dr Kirsten Schulze (Masters Tutor)  
Dr Roham Alvandi (LSE-CU Programme Director)  
Dr Tim Hochstrasser (LSE-PKU Programme Director)  
Dr Gagan Sood (teacher responsible for HY423)  
Milada Fomina (MSc Programmes Administrator)  
Nayna Bhatti (Postgraduate and Research Programme Manager)  
Rebecca Lawrence (SSLC rep for MSc Empires, Colonialism and Globalisation)  
Piyali Mandal (SSLC rep for MSc in Theory & History of International Relations)  
Laurel Waterhouse (SSLC rep for LSE-CU)

Topics Addressed:

1. Review of Minutes from last meeting
  - a. Academic Adviser System questionnaire
    - i. Laurel and Rebecca did not receive any questionnaires from their programmes. Milada was going to resend out the questionnaire to all students in the department.
  - b. Dissertation groups
    - i. Talked about splitting the dissertation group to make them smaller and more specific.
      1. PKU-LSE/Theory & History of International Relations together and Empires in a separate group
  - c. Lockers
    - i. Professor Hartley has not yet checked into this
  - d. PKU-LSE programme integration
    - i. Have students write a survival guide for future students
    - ii. Having informal workshops at PKU to prepare like the LSE-CU programme does
2. Program Specific Items:
  - a. Empires program
    - i. Rebecca questioned about pushing back the dissertation proposal deadline from the end of Week 1.
      1. Was agreed that having it due at the end of Week 2 instead of Week 1 would not make that much of a difference in the department
    - ii. Dr. Sood said that they would be posting more sample exam questions on Moodle by the end of the term for HY423
  - b. CU-LSE program
    - i. Laurel brought up a lack of clarity in the footnoting format in the department handbook for dissertation.
      1. Nayna was going to look into this

- ii. Laurel also brought up the issue of the dissertation deadline and the start of exams being so close. There are concerns in her program about planning to study and finish dissertation in four weeks.
      - 1. The Department said there was not much we could do about it. It's a school-wide issue with timetabling because of half-units
      - 2. Professor Hartley believes that timetabling and releasing of exam schedules may run smoother in the future.
  - c. Theory & History of International Relations Program
    - i. Piyali brought up the concern that student on the program were unsure of how much IR theory they could include in their dissertations.
      - 1. Dr. Schulze suggested for now that they talk to their supervisor to resolve this problem
      - 2. In the future, splitting the dissertation groups may help with this issue by giving THIR/PKU-LSE more program specific information
    - ii. Piyali says they now receive regular emails forwarded by Milada about events in the International Relations department
- 3. Exam Scheduling Timetable
  - a. Was discussed at length when Laurel brought up dissertation deadlines and exams. Not much that can be done by the department.
- 4. New Course Proposal
  - a. There was a new course proposed by Dr. David Motadel called European Empires and Global Conflict, 1935-1948
  - b. Suggest that Dr. Motadel should delete "would be helpful to have reading knowledge in French/German" from the prerequisite section.
  - c. There were a few issues with the assessment percentages of the new course. Many thought that 40% per essay was a lot and could really affect a student's grade if they did not do well in the MT
    - i. Dr. Schulze said she would send Dr. Motadel her model for assessment