

**Postgraduate Staff-Student Liaison Committee
International History Department**

Wednesday, 9 November 2016, 1-2pm
32L.LG.20

In attendance:

Staff:

Dr Roham Alvandi - LSE-Columbia Programme Director
Dr Gagan D. S. Sood - teacher responsible for HY423
Dr Kirsten Schulze - Masters Tutor
Professor Janet Hartley – Head of Department
Milada Fomina – Administrative assistant

Students:

Louis Bearn (MSc History of International Relations)
Charlotte Eaton (MSc Theory and History of International Relations)
Brenna McCallick (MSc International and World History)
Matilda Nash (MSc Empires, Colonialism and Globalisation)

Apologies: Carlotta Clivio (MSc International Affairs)

Agenda

1. Minutes of the last SSLC meeting
2. Matters arising from the last meeting
3. Programme-specific matters (oral reports by student reps)
4. Welcome Week inductions & course sign-up
5. Any other business

Minutes

1. Minutes of last meeting – not relevant (last year's group)
2. Matters arising from the last minutes – none
3. Programme-specific matters

LSE-CU

Issue regarding language classes: money allotted for students to take courses – some not offered money for more intense courses unavailable at LSE but on offer elsewhere (SOAS).

Decision: only limited departmental language funding for LSE-CU degree. We will try to deepen relationship with SOAS and KCL so additional language courses can be accessed by these students. We will also try to find out much earlier in advance from Columbia what languages people are studying and at which level for the joint degree so we can set out what options they will have in London to continue studying these and let them know some rarer courses may be difficult to arrange.

History of International Relations

Coursework (specifically formative essays) deadlines q43 not easy to find out. Not all essay due dates are on Moodle. Also some students have multiple deadlines on same week – hard to know this likely to happen when choosing courses. Would like to know essay deadlines in week 1 so this information can be taken into account in course choices.

Decision: In induction will make clear that essay deadlines differ across courses and to factor this in when choosing courses if you wish to pre-manage deadline workload. Will also ensure all essay deadlines are on Moodle, and will make it a policy that all deadlines must be put up on Moodle by lecturers.

Empires, Colonialism and Globalisation

Some issues with classroom sizes, especially for HY 461. This needs to be fixed. All agreed.

Cumberland Lodge – great weekend, timing was a bit hard though. Many people didn't go because they had too many essays due the following week. Again agreed to flag essay deadlines at induction. Lecturers should do this in course inductions.

Gagan: How are you finding Empires (structure/content)? New course – keen to hear feedback.

Maddie/Louis: Great, really positive.

THIR

THIR feel they are between the two departments – career events tailored for history students or international relation but nothing for our group specifically. We'd like to hear more about how we sell ourselves between the two.

Agreed that IH will remind IR to include THIR in their emails about events and will look into a career talk more specific to THIR.

LSE-PKU

Module selection – course sign up – increase coordination with IR so they know which courses are available. Want to be able to give students at least one first choice. Let people know that they may not get on to the classes they want.

We are arranging a meeting with IR to sort this out.

Lack of studying spaces. Columbia students get a study room but PKU do not. Also, library issue – too noisy, computers break down and not often repaired, not enough space to study (especially for post grad students).

Heather: Difficult with space on campus. Potentially try out different library – Maughan Library, Senate Library.

Heather: Also a room in SAR which is a meeting room which could be made available – will let students know.

Paul and Heather will raise this issue and could potentially use meeting rooms for study spaces.

4. Welcome Week

Charlotte: Helpful to have print out of events, thanks you. Could IR do something similar? Also, some room changes we weren't warned about.

Heather: We will tell teachers to make sure they tell Milada of room changes so she can email students.

Charlotte: (IR related) – teachers accepting students into classes before taster week is over.

Heather: Yes, and this contradicted information that people had received from IR. We will discuss this with IR. To be consistent IH will also make Saturday of week 1 the deadline for allocation of course places.

5. Any other business

Consultative Rep for GSSC– Milada will email all SSLC reps and we can decide together.