

**Minutes of the Undergraduate Student-Staff Liaison Committee Summer Term Meeting**  
**Wednesday 13 May 2009, Room E408, 12.00**

*Present:* Yisum Heneghan, Edward Nicholson, Nigel Ashton, Andrea Mason, Adrian Rogstad

1. *Report from the Committee's representatives to the Library User Group.*

The representative was absent.

2. *Report from the Committee's representatives to the Undergraduate Student Forum.*

Yisum Heneghan reported that the last meeting of the Forum had discussed the need for more systematic approaches to teaching, for example by allocating reading of specific articles or books to students and producing sets of reading summaries. Nigel Ashton commented that the Department usually lets teachers take individual decisions on such matters, and that beyond the first year, wide reading is encouraged and it can be difficult to identify core readings.

3. *Report from the IR Department liaising representative.*

The representative was absent.

4. *Proposal for a new HY200-level course, "Latin America and the United States since 1898"*

Nigel Ashton and Andrea Mason presented the proposal for a new HY2\*\* course, to be lectured by newly appointed lecturer Dr. Tanya Harmer. The course, which covers an area currently not covered by the Department, will be available next year as an 'unlisted' course on LSE For You, subject to approval by the necessary school committees. As soon as approval is granted, next year's second- and third-year students will receive an e-mail detailing how to choose the course, which will not be capped. Assessment will be via one assessed essay (25%) and an exam in Summer Term (75%).

Students present commented that the proposed course outline looked interesting. Edward Nicholson raised the question of book provision in the library for a new course. Nigel Ashton responded that this is already being dealt with, and that there should be no problem with book availability once the course starts. The course will also be Moodle-based.

5. *Any Other Business.*

a) *IR courses to be suspended for 2010-11*

Nigel Ashton informed that the International Relations Department have notified the Department that the courses IR305, 'Strategic Aspects of International Relations', and IR306, 'Sovereignty, Rights and Justice' will be suspended for the 2010-11 academic year. Students on the IR and History degree affected by this will be offered the opportunity of doing these courses as history modules in their second year (2009-10) on condition that they do an extra history option in their third year.

b) *History courses suspended next year*

Edward Nicholson brought up the question of whether students currently in their first year wishing to take HY200-level modules which are suspended next year could do so in their third year. Nigel Ashton replied that this was fine, as long as the over-all balance of the degree with respect to 200- and 300-level modules, and IR- and HY-modules for those doing the IR and History degree, is kept.

c) *Use of the Student Study Room by Department Staff*

Adrian Rogstad brought up the issue of Department staff using the study room, E509, for

research seminars and meetings during the exam period, when the room is being used extensively by students revising. Many students have expressed dissatisfaction with this, especially since classrooms in other areas of the school should be more readily available in the Summer Term than at other times. Nigel Ashton replied that the Department would consider the student criticism, but that it could sometimes be more difficult to get rooms elsewhere than perhaps imagined. For the rest of term a departmental meeting should be the only time E509 will be used by Department staff.

*d) Newly appointed member of administrative staff*

Christine Whyte is the Department's new Project Administrator in charge of relations with the library, Moodle, etc. She has currently e-mailed the library to enquire about getting more copies of core history books, and is awaiting a reply.

*e) Low attendance at Committee meetings*

The Committee discussed the issue of low attendance numbers at its meetings, and various options to increase attendance including linking meeting with History Society events and sending out reminders the day before meetings was mentioned.

*f) Election of new Chair*

As no candidates showed interest, the election has been postponed. An e-mail will be circulated to students encouraging them to run.

Adrian Rogstad  
Student Chair