

International History Department Student Staff Liaison Committee meeting minutes

Wednesday 12th March 2014 (Summer term meeting)

Present:

Emma Forth (BA History year 3, Chair)
Alistair Hughes (BA History year 3)
Matteo Lenzi (BSc IR and History year 3)
Lodewijk Vriens (BSc IR and History year 2)
Uday Mehra (BSc IR and History year 2)
Josh Hitchens (BA History year 1)
Orla McNamara (BA History year 1)
Edward Tan (BA History year 1)
Khanh Nguyen (BSc IR and History year 1)
Yeva Agayan (BSc IR and History year 1)
Kanan Parida (BSc IR and History year 1)
Fazeela Jahangir (BSc IR and History year 1)

Professor Vladislav Zubok (Undergraduate Programme Director)
Mathew Betts (Undergraduate administrator)
Paul Horsler (IH Library liaison)

Apologies:

Sivi Sivakumar
Lucy Flamm

1. Welcome and introduction

The committee members introduced themselves.

2. Library report and matters

Mr Horsler advised that additional copies of books on the HY226 reading list had been ordered in response to this matter having been raised at the previous SSLC meeting.

New online resources are available on the Library catalogue: The New York Times from 1851-2010, and Chatham House 1920-1979. (1980-2008 is to follow).

The functionality of the online reading lists system is being discussed with the supplier as the issue rests there.

From 14th April until 4th June, in order to prioritise space in the Library for LSE students, admission will be refused to undergraduate and Masters students of other universities as well as to members of the public.

Students commented on the disruption caused by the installation of the Women's' Library, and also that computer stations on the fourth and fifth floors would be beneficial.

More journals on South Asian history would be welcomed. Uday will provide Mr Horsler with a list of titles.

Cohort feedback:

3. First Year, both programmes

Students of HY114 feel that there are insufficient copies of books in the Library. It was noted that History is a subject which relies heavily on reading from books as opposed to other LSE subjects where the majority of reading is from journals.

Action: Mr Horsler to discuss this subject-specific issue with the Library Liaison Manager.

The Director visited LSE residences. His visits were well received by students.

Exam preparation was discussed, including the strategy of 'topic spotting'.

4. Second year, both programmes

The BA History rep had sent apologies and a written update. Second year students are generally happy. Dissertation students had appreciated the workshop looking at two published articles of historical research.

5. Third year, both programmes

Third year students are generally happy. Some clarification of the HY300 guidelines on matters such as formatting, binding and presentation of the final dissertation would be appreciated.

6. General Course

The General Course rep had sent apologies and written feedback:

Overall, the history department has been extremely accommodating to General Course students. The biggest change for students being the change in style of essay, which class teachers carefully explained to new students in the initial weeks. The administration and general course dean have been very helpful in exam preparation -- and students have been taking advantage of the learning centers courses. The most helpful thing to general course students would be an exam timetable release earlier -- but we know there are big hurdles to this happening! Overall it has been a great year for general course students in the history department. The only thing that stands out is the initial clash between general course intro. events and history department ones.

7. National Student Survey

Mr Betts underlined the importance of the NSS and encouraged SSLC members in turn to encourage their peers to complete it. The main reason identified as to why students do not complete the survey during Lent term was the pressure of academic work.

8. Election of SSLC Chair for next year

Uday Mehra volunteered to be the SSLC Chair in 2014/15. The student reps at the meeting welcomed this nomination and agreed.