

School of History
Undergraduate Student Staff Liaison Committee
21/11/2019

Minutes

Staff Members Present:

Anna Chrysostomides – Deputy Director Education
Rich Evans – HSS Library
Sam Bennett – Secretary

Student Course Reps Present:

Avin Hourou – 2nd Year History
Klevis Kokoshi – 1st Year History

PART 1 – Preliminary items

1. Apologies for absence:

Anisa Taznim, Jay Horrell, Zhara Adal.

2. Welcome to new members of the SSLC and guidance on how to be an effective course rep.

3. Report on matters arising from the previous meeting and action taken

3.1 Q-Review Issue – Report on progress with Q-Review issues (AC).

AC outlined the fact that Q Review should be working in all ArtsTwo rooms. AH fed back that on the Urban Lives module, this is still not the case.

Action Point: AC to follow up as to why this might be the case. AH to confirm that this is still the case.

To check: Avin confirmed that these were now working as expected.

3.2 Inter-year module access. Changes for INCOMING students only – no changes for students currently on-course (AC).

AC outlined that new rules have been put in place for new incoming students that means that they will not be able to choose across year groups.

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RE noted that the archives discussed in the previous meeting are now accessible, with a temporary archives officer in place.

PART 2 – Programme delivery and other matters

4. Programme / module developments and amendments / committee volunteers

4.1 Module Approval Committee Reminder – New date: Thursday, 5 December Scape 3.01, 13:00-15:00.

AC outlined the date and purpose of the meeting. This was corrected by email to be Thursday 28 November 2019 from 12:00 – 13:00

4.2 Official sign up for Equality Diversity & Inclusion Committee (Avin & Zhara), Athena Swan (Avin & Zhara), Education Committee (Savannah), and Module Approval Committee (Avin, Savannah, Zhara and Anisa).

AC signed Klevis up to the Education Committee.

5. Learning, teaching and assessment

5.1 Reflective Practice Document – explanation and reminder.

AC requested course reps (and potentially other students) have a look at the reflective practice document and provide any feedback via email to Anna.

6. Academic support: Academic Advisors and Office Hours

6.1 New mentoring scheme for School of History – ready to move to Education Committee subject to SSLC approval. Involves group activities across year groups within adviser groups and can possibly include meeting with advisors earlier in the academic year.

AC outlined the plans for a new mentoring scheme within the School of History and how this would work. AH, KK gave their feedback on the idea, positive around the idea of a WhatsApp chat for each mentor group.

KK has given further feedback from the History group chat: 'Quite a few people responded in the History Group chat saying that it was a good idea, the idea of getting older years to organise an advisor group trip at the beginning of the next year was welcomed (there was negative feedback on the initial trip in our advisor groups when we first started) There was also some negative feedback on advisor groups in general, with the main issue being that there isn't really any interaction with peers or the advisor in these groups.'

7. Organisation and Communication

7.1 Student Consultations will be held on 29 November 2019 in Queens E303.

AC asked the reps to spread the date amongst students. 12:00 – 13:00. Asked for possible incentives to get a higher student turnout, such as lunch. Later corrected by AC via email.

8. Learning resources:

8.1 Library facilities / resources (books, journals etc.) (RE).

AH noted the problems with the new library door, which runs very slowly. RE acknowledged this, and noted whilst little may be able to be done in the immediate term, this may be addressed in future library works.

RE noted that the library will be open even during college Christmas closure. Opening hours available online. Also added that there are new laptop security lockers in the library.

AH raised the possibility of student work experience/placements at the LeoBaeck archives in the library.

8.2 New School of History administrative role has been created regarding other types of learning resources. Matt Jacobson will be filling this role and would like to hold a separate SSLC meeting specifically do address new types of learning resources.

Anna outlined this new role, and Matt's idea to have a separate meeting to research what exactly students want. Both course reps suggested a meeting would be better than email communications.

Action Point: AC to liaise with Matt J to arrange a meeting at an appropriate time.

9. Any other business:

9.1 Decoration of Arts Two School of History:

What history-related decoration (posters, art etc.) might be popular, whilst remaining inclusive of all our students? It's important to bear in mind we don't actually own the building, it is shared with the rest of the university, and that we have to ask for permission to put things up. But we would like to try and make the building more interesting and engaging for our History students to be in. What would you like to see on the walls? How might we get student suggestions for this?

AH suggested some sort of commemorative murals. Perhaps given the buildings ties to Jewish History and the LeoBaeck this should be taken into account. Suggested that this should be student led. Student reps to feedback at next meeting.

KK has reported further feedback on this idea from the History group chat: *'The idea of posters put up across the building was suggested and then supported by others Some suggested a statue (don't know how feasible this is but was a suggestion nonetheless) - ideas of Marie Antoinette | Napoleon | Karl Marx.'*

9.2 School of History Principles draft document to be considered by SSLC

AC outlined the purpose of the document, requested student reps look through this, share it amongst peers and send comments back to Anna. AH suggested that the list feels quite 'basic' or the sort of document that might be given out to a younger age group. KK concurred that many of these things could go unsaid. Student reps to ask around for interest in participating. To gather information about what sort of information people would find useful. Avin and KK agreed that a video either played at the beginning of the year or on the website for potential students might be more useful. This may involve interviewing students and staff about the School of History as a community.

9.3 Concerns raised about take home exams and clashes.

1. Week 12 and classes
2. Other take home exams, overlapping and how this is compensated for.

Action Point: AC to take to Education Committee.

AH raised the point that a lot of deadlines are stacked into December, when extremely little is taking place in January.

9.4 Can advisers view previous results and note areas of improvement and pass these onto advisees.

Action Point: AC to raise at Education Committee regarding standardisation of adviser practice. Is this possible?

9.5 AH noted that the introduction of new or complex words in classes should be defined before being used.

10. Date of the next meeting.

06/02/19, 12:00 – 13:00 in Scape 3.01.