

**School of History**  
**Undergraduate Student Staff Liaison Committee**  
**30/09/2020**

**Minutes**

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**Present**

Sam Bennet – Minutes  
Dr Anna Chrysostomides – Chair  
Avin Houro – Final Year BA History  
Richard Evans - HSS Library  
Klevis Kokoshi – Second Year BA History

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**PART 1 – Preliminary items**

**1. Apologies for absence**

Zhara Adal, Anisa Taznim

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

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**PART 2 – Programme delivery and other matters**

**3. Programme / module developments and amendments / committee volunteers**

Course reps can now view the feedback from last year's module evaluations here: [https://qmulprod-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/person/raw608\\_qmul\\_ac\\_uk/EtnWmylAprpHm\\_axusZzPhQBPfUKhOAys5-hd3uIXf2yww?e=jglOWF](https://qmulprod-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/person/raw608_qmul_ac_uk/EtnWmylAprpHm_axusZzPhQBPfUKhOAys5-hd3uIXf2yww?e=jglOWF)

Anna noted the location of the files and that they are available for course reps to view.

**3.2 – Welcome Week Feedback**

Avin noted that there was not a large amount on for finalists, but the talk was informative and the Q&A useful. Noted the utility of the anonymous feature. Noted that the videos seemed useful, particularly having a former student perspective. Noted participation in a number of social events.

Klevis - Noted that did not attend welcome week activities. Anna noted that a bigger push may be needed next year for that cohort.

#### **4. Learning, teaching and assessment**

4.1 Are there any comments, successes or concerns regarding how blended learning is working this year?

Anna noted some prior feedback on what each study session is for and that she will take this forward.

Noted that a specific module convenor is moving forward on MS Teams due to their preference of platform and that this seemed more conducive to discussion.

Also noted that the seminar leader asking people to turn on their cameras and microphones tends to get better results, than not mentioning it. Supported by both reps present.

Positive feedback for break out rooms which push new people together in discussion.

Klevis noted that the use of a microphone makes for a more productive seminar than text based chat, which can be awkward.

Some general feedback about forums not being useful, as it requires a lot more time and work. This is time that some see would have been more useful spent on essays. This is particularly pressing for those who require forum participation every week. Anna noted that some of this may be unable to change due to be written into assessment.

Positive feedback for the way group forum posts were working, which generated discussion and something to talk about in the seminar. Avin echoed this, noting that discussions prior to the seminar were useful for both academic and social purposes.

#### **5. Academic support: Academic Advisors and Office Hours**

5.1 What type of support might students need that we are not currently providing? Have you heard of any needs not yet being met?

Avin noted that some students have still not heard from their adviser, whereas others have heard from both their first and new 'twin' adviser.

#### **6. Organisation and Communication**

6.1 Is the WhatsApp group chat working? Is this something worth continuing moving forward?

Strong positive feedback for the course reps group chat, noted that it provides immediate feedback.

6.2 How can we get the current second years to be more active on their group chat?

Noted that second years are slightly quieter than finalists. Klevis noted that something formal from the School making people aware of these groups would be useful and make them a more productive place for discussion.

***ACTION: Anna to share link to join amongst all second years.***

## **7. Learning resources:**

7.1 Library facilities / resources (books, journals etc.) – updates on how the library is accommodating students during social isolation (RE)

Rich responded to questions sent in advance.

Noted that if there are major delays on click and collect books, then students should get in touch with the library to enquire -Initial: [library@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:library@qmul.ac.uk) Further follow up: [library-hss@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:library-hss@qmul.ac.uk)

***ACTION: Anna to email all UG students with the above details for chasing book collections.***

In response to a request for an on the spot desk booking system and frustration with free desks not being useable – Richard has escalated his to the library team. Richard also outlined the advice the library has been taking about opening the library safely. Avin added that there had been further frustrations since the issue was first raised.

Responding to a question about book purchasing, Rich had not heard otherwise and advised continued use of the book request form.

Rich encouraged students to look over the library welcome pages due to a high number of recent changes - <https://www.qmul.ac.uk/library/using-library-services/welcome-and-induction-2020/>

## **8. Any other business:**

8.1 Student-Staff Quiz will be happening in Week 4, Thursday at 4:30.

Anna noted the event is taking place and that she will be sharing details. Advising groups will be encouraged to form teams.

8.2 Fundraising for charity. Dan Todman has asked that we choose a charity to raise funds for over the course of the year, both as a way to invoke a sense of community and shared purpose and also for the sake of helping out. What might we do to raise money? (DT has offered to do karaoke!) And which of these charities should we choose:

- The Black Curriculum (<https://www.theblackcurriculum.com>)

- The UN Refugee Agency Coronavirus Appeal  
([https://donate.unhcr.org/gb/coronavirus-emergency-bsd/~my-donation?gclid=CjwKCAjw74b7BRA\\_EiwAF8yHFO6t30YDAHViogyRqZm7hnbHUUzEPVN4HSrUjCVwmze0-7ze5xrrxoCO5MQAvD\\_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds](https://donate.unhcr.org/gb/coronavirus-emergency-bsd/~my-donation?gclid=CjwKCAjw74b7BRA_EiwAF8yHFO6t30YDAHViogyRqZm7hnbHUUzEPVN4HSrUjCVwmze0-7ze5xrrxoCO5MQAvD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds))
  - Doctors of the World, UK: Supporting and Getting Healthcare to Vulnerable Migrants During Covid  
(<https://www.doctorsoftheworld.org.uk/our-work/coronavirus-response/uk-supporting-and-getting-healthcare-to-vulnerable-migrants-during-covid/#>)

Avin asked if she could poll students in a group chat about which the School should support, Anna supported this idea.

#### **9. Date of the next meeting & meetings this year:**

18 November  
3 February  
14 March  
28 April  
All meetings are from 12:00-13:00

Meeting dates noted by the group.

Noted that student consultations have not been scheduled due to increased communication channels in terms of group chats and timely feedback on digital platforms.