DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT

Meeting of the Staff Student Liaison Committee Meeting (SSLC)

Wednesday 29th October 2014
2-3pm
Common Room

Agenda

Attendees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Professor Lawrence Ezrow</th>
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<tr>
<td>PGT Student Representative</td>
<td>Keshab Giri</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Chelsea Watson, Maria (Flor) Fernandez Mego</td>
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<td>Conflict Resolution</td>
<td>Recep Onursal</td>
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<td>POPB</td>
<td>Arthur Hunter</td>
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<td>IDA</td>
<td>James Fox (Absent)</td>
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<td>Political Theory</td>
<td>Zach Sherburne</td>
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<td>Political Economy</td>
<td>Luis Mejia Lopez</td>
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<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Hasna Azmi Fadhilaah</td>
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<td>Graduate Administrator</td>
<td>Alex West</td>
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<td>Departmental Administrator</td>
<td>Abi Reid</td>
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For Discussion

Matters Arising

1. What is going well?

Most things are going well.

2. Improvements since last meeting

No last meeting with this group to discuss.

3. PGT Rep Agenda Items

- **Blog/Website** – Could we set up something on Facebook where publications and news can be shared amongst the PGT group? Lawrence suggests that for staff publications they check the website as each staff member has their own page, perhaps PhD students can put more on there too? Alex will meet with Keshab to discuss setting this up further.

- **Seminar for PhD application** – Taking place on 3rd December, leaflet distributed and noted that posters have gone up in the Department. It is not hard to move from MA to PhD within the University. Also suggest that
students speak with Alex after the meeting for further information on applications.

- **Extra Curriculum Activities** – Set up debates, attend the Regius lecture. It was noted that in previous years the PGT rep planned a trip to Westminster which was a huge success. He is now a PhD student here, so Alex and Keshab will arrange to meet with him to discuss further.

- **Informal meetings between students and staff** – Once a week? Possibly too often, a couple a term will be good. Can do more coffee & cake type meetings, students also welcome to plan things such as Pizza nights etc. We can book out the common room or another if necessary. Job talks taking place at the moment, PGT students are welcome. Alex to send info.

- **GV903 Lab session** – Lab session too large, not enough personal attention in the lab. Lawrence will speak with Ismene and Alex QF regarding this problem. Asks for rough optimum number to attend the lab session, reps suggest 15 people. GV900 was also raised as an issue, we have put on another session so need to encourage students to move from the full class to the new emptier class. GV902 and GV958 also having the same attention problems. For these ones it is unlikely we can resolve anything this year as we do not have Teaching Assistants for GV902 & 958.

  **GV958 material** – Not what the students were expecting, more Research Design Based. Explained that due to staffing issues before the start of term the GV958 module was left without a module supervisor, LM kindly stepped in to teach the module, thus the change in Syllabus. Lawrence points out that GV958 is a valuable class to those who are taking it, the students mostly agree.

- **Count me in** – Worries that a forgotten card will be an absence, Alex will send the forms which can be found on MyEssex to all PGT’s so they can easily find them.

- **Student Conference** – Date cannot be moved to after exams, mainly there are not so many staff or students around (mainly only PG students). Works well as it is a few weeks before exams, and immediately following the Easter vacation.

4. **Political Economy Agenda Items**

   - **Module organisational problems (GV907)** – In particular the Game Theory side of the module. Lawrence suggests that it is not the Topics that matter,
but the approach that is important. Added to the assessment problems, there are 3-4 students out of 12 that are currently unhappy about some aspects of the module. Again it is explained that there were staffing issues and that the GV907 module was covered last minute, so the best approach would be to speak directly with DB about the issues as he is very approachable.

- **FASer deadlines** – Alex confirms that due to systems in use that don’t ‘talk’ to each other there are occasionally deadlines on line which do not require online submissions. As this applies to GV907, and DB and Alex have an agreement the deadlines can be ignored unless DB states otherwise.

- **More exercises to be done in class** - It is noted that the classes contain some tough theory, maybe assignment samples in class? Lawrence suggested more applications in class, if completing exercises is hard speak to DB. Form groups to work through together.

5. **International relations Agenda Items – Chelsea Watson & Flor Fernandez Mego**

   - **Timetables – Core and Optional Clashes** – Changes to the timetable which are agreed from April time can have a severe knock on effect. When teaching is originally confirmed clashes are at an absolute minimum, but as staffing and syllabus change after the agreed teaching this complicates matters, as rooms and classes must be booked around the other Departments agreed timetables. This is why we ask for teaching availability and Syllabus in April. We can’t list optional modules as hidden if they clash for students either, though we will make a suggestion to the central University that this could be helpful in future.

6. **Items of relevance to be taken forward to the Departmental meeting – attended by PGT Rep and nominee’s where relevant.**

   Social Events between staff and students (mentioned under agenda item 3, bullet point 4)
   Class/Room issues (As per agenda item 3, point 5)

7. **Any other business**

   We will make the next meeting longer as ran out of time.

   Lawrence goes over the items discussed and confirms that we agreed Alex will send on additional information regarding Job Talks and Count me in forms and more information on the Scholarship and PhD application meeting, 3rd December.

**Next Meeting: 21st January 2015, 1.30pm-3pm (allowing an additional 30 minutes)**