

**Faculty: FASS**

**Department: International Politics**

**Date/Time: 15:15, 16/03/23**

**Reps in Attendance:** William Wylde, Kyle Jones, Loti Glyn, Chloe Nock, Matilda Falchetta, Ben Smith, Felix Smart, Adam McCartan, Zoe Larkai-Doherty, Daria Ermolina, Dmtry Onoprijcuks

**Staff in Attendance:** Milja Kurki, Christopher Phillips, Elin Royles, Ceuron Bryn Tecwyn

**Student Services**: George Jones (Student Services), Simon French (Library)

**Apologies/Absent:** Adam McCartan

**Agenda**

1. **Previous Minutes:** Approved
2. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

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| **Action Number:** | **Action:** | **Action Status and Outcome:** | **Whose Action:** |
| **2.1** | Required actions communicated to the Learning & Teaching Committee. |  |  |
| **2.2** | Estates have been told about C22 being too hot. | **Student reps say that the room might be a little better, but still too hot** |  |
| **2.3** | Library booking system remains the same. Library rep asked for feedback on it. |  |  |
| **2.4** | The Diversity Working Group’s pizza night was organised and deemed a success |  |  |

**Library**

* Library representative introduced the library and its services: Primo, More Books, etc, then asked for feedback.
* Student rep praised the availability of texts from the library, both physical and online. However, library rep noted that online resources are expensive.
* Student rep had problem with accessing e-book, but was helped by a member of staff.
* Student rep had problems with accessing booked rooms in Pantycelyn. Library rep said that this is not under the library’s remit, and suggested contacting the Timetable Office.
* Student rep raised concerns with accessing e-books, due to limited access.
* Student rep asked about the More Books service. Library rep explained that students can order up to 10 books a year.

**Careers**

* Careers rep not present but sent a report.
* Student rep has discussed how Careers can support students, especially those doing their dissertation, with the Careers rep.
* Various online and other Careers events have been organised as set out in report.
* Student rep noted that students engaged more with Careers during the strikes.
* Staff suggested helping students with applying for work experience. Reps agreed.

**Student Services**

* Student Services explained that Student Support is now called Student Services, and explained its functions.
* Student Services are now focusing more on harassment and bullying, with a reporting system.
* Sexual Violence Liaison Officers appointed, as well as a co-ordinator. Over 80 reports since the start of the academic year, more than last time.
* Financial assistance is available via the Hardship Fund, which is £200,000 which can be accessed by students who submit a form and evidence of need.
* Student Services have received funding from the Higher Education Fund, to be spread across various projects: Students Union, meal deals, etc.
* Induction and transition support being planned. Pilot project for new students involves 90 second videos on Blackboard.
* A calendar of events called ‘Extended Induction’ will be rolled out next academic year.
* A Wellbeing app has been introduced, which is a chatbot that can assess mental health symptoms.
* New legislation requires universities to have a ‘trusted wellbeing contact’. Student rep asked if a person will be notified if the wellbeing contact is contacted, which Student Services rep confirmed.
* Student rep asked about how to complain about Student Services. Student Services rep explained that it can be done either through the Student Discipline or university complaint processes, both of which are online. TellUsNow is also an option.
* Student rep suggested more communication required, and the Student Services rep agreed.
* Student rep asked about Student Services’ social media presence. Student Services rep explained that it has been tried before, and went badly. They are now trying again under a new manager.
* Student rep suggested more posters and flyers.
* Student rep suggested more contact with private landlords in town regarding students, and Student Services rep agreed.
* Student Services intend to work more with student societies’ social media. Student reps agree.
1. **Student Matters**

 **Year 1**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Feedback mainly positive. |  |  |
| **2** | Globalisation module had arranged a film viewing, but it was cancelled without notice. Staff explained that notice had been emailed out, due to staff illness.  |  |  |
| **3** | During the strike, students were marked down as ‘not attended’ for some sessions. | Staff reassured reps, as these will be fixed retroactively. However, students turning up to cancelled lectures and swiping their cards switches the attendance monitoring on. |  |

**Year 2**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Rep asked about the availability of content during strikes.  | Staff recommended going through TellUsNow |  |
| **2** | Deadlines considered too close together. | L&T | MLK |
| **3** | Positive feedback for interactive lectures. |  |  |
| **4** | Students would like longer seminars. | L&T | MLK |
| **5** | Reps raised concerns about ChatGPT being used to write plagiarised essays. Staff reassured them that ChatGPT writes very bad essays. | Staff will arrange committee to discuss it | MLK |

 **Year 3**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Positive changes have been made to the Dissertation module. |  |  |
| **2** | Rep asked if grades will be adjusted to take the strikes into account | Staff said that this is being discussed. Rep asked if they should go through TellUsNow about it, and staff said that it couldn’t hurt |  |
| **3** | Staff warned student reps that if the strikes continue, it could lead to a marking boycott |  |  |

 **Welsh Medium**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Feedback was positive, communication regarding strikes was praised. |  |  |

**International**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | International students also appreciated the communication about strikes. |  |  |
| **2** | Feedback was overall positive. |  |  |
| **3** | Substitute lecturers were praised. |  |  |
| **4** | Students want Powerpoints before Globalisation lectures – consistency important |  | **MLK** |
| **5** | Students want a microwave for their use on campus. | **Contact SU** | **MLK** |
| **6** | Students are frustrated with the strikes and are asking if it would be possible to get their money back. | **Tell us Now** |  |
| **7** | Students want somewhere to keep their belongings over summer. | **Contact estates/accommodation** | **MLK** |

**Joint Honours**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Rep asked who they should ask about Globalisation module | Staff will take this into account and remind reps of office hours | **CH** |
| **2** | Students want more workshops. | **L&T** |  |
| **3** | Students want more information on assignments for the Propaganda module. | **Convenor** | **MLK** |
| **4** | Deadlines considered too close together  | **L&T** |  |
| **5** | Positive response to Semester 1, and students happy with modules and exams |  |  |
| **6** | Staff explained that changes have been made to takeaways exams. |  |  |

1. **Chair’s Business**
2. **Interpol Diversity Prize – please advertise to students**
3. **Suggestion to** arrange another pizza night for early May – reps welcomed enthusiastically