

**Faculty: FASS**

**Department: International Politics**

**Date/Time: 14:00, 03/05/23**

**Reps in Attendance:** Kyle Jones, Chloe Nock, Ben Smith, Dmtry Onoprijcuks

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

**Student Services**: Nia (Library)

**Apologies/Absent:** Daria Ermolina, Loti Glyn, Zoe Larkai-Doherty, Matilda Falchetta

**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** | Matters raised by SSCC were to be communicated to the L&T meeting, but the meeting was cancelled due to industrial action. | **Will be communicated to the next L&T meeting** | MLK |
| **2.2** | Staff have been given advice on how to spot the use of ChatGPT, and Turnitin has a new feature to spot it. |  |  |
| **2.3** | An all-university staff-only committee has been formed to discuss the use of AI. It can be used legitimately as a tool. | **A study group on the subject of ChatGPT to be formed – recruitment via email before end of term and again in September** |  |
| **2.4** | Student’s Union has been contacted about having a microwave on campus. |  |  |
| **2.5** | The Accommodation Office do not provide storage over the summer, and recommend that students use Mid-Wales Storage. Rep pointed out that this is impractical and expensive. | **Students should suggest it via TellUsNow** |  |
| **2.6** | Marking boycott has begun, but many staff are reluctant to take part, so most students will probably still get their marks on time. |  |  |
| **2.7** | Pizza night tomorrow night, and there are 2 nominations for the diversity prize. |  |  |

**Careers**

* Careers rep not present, but had sent report – drop-ins still available, careers events, careers events, etc.
* Guest speaker event well-received.
* Students reminded that Careers is a lifetime service, and there are Careers opportunities during the summer.

**Library**

* Library opening hours have been extended to the end of June, due to the needs of Nursing students. Will be eventually extended to August.
* Subject librarian will still be available to help in summer.
* Students can order books, although rep pointed out that this feature is rarely used, and a rep was unaware of how to use it.
* There had been difficulties accessing OneDrive on university computers, but not many students affected.
* Rep had ‘cannot connect to this domain’ error on a university computer. Library rep made a note of it.

**Student Services**

* Rep not present.
* In light of the ‘Charlie Asked for Help’ campaign, chair reminded reps that the Student Services will be introducing a ‘wellbeing contact’ system, which will be part of the registration process.
* Induction materials are expected.

1. **Student Matters**

**Welsh Medium**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action  (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Rep not present. Nothing to report. |  |  |

**Year 1**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action  (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Students were frustrated with the Globalisation module, but it has now been fixed. |  |  |
| **2** | More concerns about AI, as Google has developed their own chatbot. Staff asked if students are aware that Turnitin has AI-detecting capabilities, and reps confirmed that lecturers informed them |  |  |
| **3** | Reading Week is being discussed for first years. |  |  |

**Year 2**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action  (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Feedback generally good. |  |  |
| **2** | Students unhappy with next year’s modules – considered too narrow. |  |  |
| **3** | Low seminar attendance, which means that little work can be done as there are not enough students to start a discussion. Staff suggested that this may be due to industrial action and cost of living. Rep also suggested that students don’t feel like they need to extend. | Rep suggested that seminars be more flexible, so students can join seminars whenever they are free. Staff noted that there would be problems with capacity and registration, but it will be discussed.  Rep suggested attendance should be discussed again next year to gauge progress.  Attendance will be mentioned during Welcome Week. |  |
| **4** | Rep asked about the dissertation process and staff explained it to them. |  |  |

**Year 3**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action  (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Reps not present. |  |  |

**Joint Honours**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action  (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Lectures try to fit in too much, so subjects are not properly explained. |  |  |
| **2** | Too much focus on Semester 1 examinations. |  |  |
| **3** | Positive feedback on teaching and academic support. |  |  |
| **4** | Students were split when asked if they thought that the courses are what they expected. Staff noted that the MEQ results haven’t been processed yet. |  |  |
| **5** | Behind the Headlines and Politics in the 21st Century the most popular modules |  |  |

**International**

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|  | **Comments/Feedback:** | **Action  (where applicable):** | **Whose Action:** |
| **1** | Rep asked which member of staff can student contact about marks (?), which was answered by staff |  |  |

1. **Chair’s Business**

* Rep noted that the new Blackboard Ultra allows students with Firsts to track their marks compared to other students. Staff are not in favour of this, but Blackboard Ultra has useful features and is still developing.
* Chair thanked all and meeting adjourned.