

SOAS
Faculty of Law and Social Sciences
FACULTY BOARD

Tuesday 28 February 2006

MINUTES

Prof Bob Ash *	Dr Sudipta Kaviraj *
Prof Henry Bernstein	Dr Jens Lerche **
Dr Hong Bo	Ms Lara De Marco
Professor Stephen Chan (Chair)	Prof Michael Palmer
Dr Matthew Craven **	Ms Sonja Ruehl
Professor Ben Fine *	Dr Lynn Welchman *
Dr Jane Harrigan *	
Prof Laurence Harris	
Dr Stephen Hopgood	

In attendance: Mrs Carolyn Heath (Secretary)
Mrs Barbara Spina

Those members whose names are marked with an asterisk were unable to be present: (*) gave apologies, (**) were absent.

38 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- 38.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2006 were APPROVED with the following amendments:
- 38.1.1 School of Law – Business Plan (Minute 32.3)
“It was NOTED by the student representative that there is a lack of NON-regional Law courses available to UG students”
- 38.1.2 Interim Library Committee (Minute 28.4) – title of committee/group corrected (from Library Strategy Working Group)

39 MATTERS ARISING

- 39.1 RAE (Minute 27.1.1 refers)
It was NOTED that an external has now been identified for DeFiMS for mock exercises. The Dean confirmed that this opportunity has now expired for the time-being, any further mock reviews will be organised and funded by David Arnold.
- 39.2 RAE (Minute 27.1.2 refers)
It was NOTED that the initial meeting between the Dean, Associate Dean Research and RAE Director was very positive and productive. [Further details about the meeting are given in Minute 42.2]. One of the items discussed was Esteem Indicators, which are now being submitted by colleagues.

39.3 Resources Committee (Minute 27.3 refers)
It was AGREED that the nomination from the Faculty Board for Prof Henry Bernstein to join Resources Committee should be withdrawn – this is in response to a lack of nominations from the other faculties.

39.4 New Director (Minute 28.1 refers)
It was NOTED that the new Director, Prof Paul WEbley, has been appointed and will start on 1 August 2006. He has begun a round of meetings with Executive Board and Heads of Department / Associate Deans. Initial positive responses have been received, particularly re his views on the need for a transparent cross-subsidy model, and control over the remaining funds.

39.5 Common Spine Negotiations (Minute 28.2 refers)
It was NOTED that the ACAS arbitrated talks regarding (re)writing HR policies and procedures have temporarily been halted due to AUT non-participation in response to the recent staff suspension. However, it was also NOTED that this will delay the common spine negotiations which will commence after the ACAS process is completed.

40 DEAN'S REPORT

40.1 AUT Strike

40.1.1 It was NOTED that an AUT strike has been called for Tuesday 7th March. Salaries deducted will be paid into the student hardship fund. Staff are requested to provide a signal to the Dean of their intention to participate.

40.1.2 It was NOTED that the strike action is opposed by the school as tuition fees will not generate sufficient funds to review salaries immediately. It was also NOTED that it is expected that £1m will be added to the salary bill in 2006/7 to pay for the results of the common spine negotiations.

40.2 Financial Deficit

40.2.1 It was NOTED that the school expects to have an operational deficit of £1.1m in 2006/7, and that significant savings (approximately 3%) have been requested from all parts of the school. It is expected that this will be difficult for many parts of the School.

40.2.2 It was NOTED that the Governors have insisted that 2006/7 budgets are based on 2005/6 actual student recruitment figures – and that 2006/7 admissions offers should therefore be biased towards overseas students to avoid over-recruiting against the HEFCE contract.

40.3 21/22 Russell Square

It was NOTED that the purchase of 21/22 Russell Square will soon be confirmed. It was also NOTED that there is empty land behind the existing buildings on which further build will be considered.

40.4 ESRC Recognition
It was NOTED that decisions have been received to the applications submitted in September as follows:
Economics – approved with quota-award status (except MSc PED)
DeFiMS – not approved
Development Studies – not approved

40.5 MA Terrorism and Jihad

40.5.1 It was NOTED that Dr Jeevan Deol (Department of Languages & Cultures of South Asia) specialises in the literatures of jihad and terrorism, and wishes to put forward a programme proposal for an MA in Terrorism and Jihad.

40.5.2 Concern was NOTED regarding the lack of political / social science input in the proposal.

40.5.3 It was AGREED that the faculty was prepared to look at ways of collaborating, potentially via CISD (within the Politics Department).

41 REPORT FROM ASSOCIATE DEAN (LEARNING AND TEACHING PG)

41.1 Publication of MA/MSc Results

It was NOTED that FLTC had returned to the issue as requested, but that they had confirmed the decision that they did not support the publication of interim results to MA/MSc students. The key concern was that these results would not have been considered by an Exam Board. It was NOTED that the queries and requests for feedback from students would therefore continue to be directed towards individual convenors/tutors.

41.2 Procedures for marking exam papers

It was NOTED that this matter had been discussed at the recent L&TPC meeting, and that discussions were ongoing. It was NOTED that decisions regarding any changes to current practice would be needed promptly in order to be communicated to staff for marking the May/June exam papers.

41.3 New regulations for Examination Offences

The new regulations were NOTED as recently approved by Academic Board. It was NOTED that these will come into effect from 2006/7 for ALL students except LLM and Distance Learning. *Action:* Faculty Administrator to circulate these to all staff.

41.4 Release of breakdown of marks to students after Exam Boards

The new Registry policy to release a full breakdown of marks to all students after the Exam Boards was NOTED and welcomed.

42 REPORT FROM ASSOCIATE DEAN (RESEARCH)

42.1 MPhil / PhD students

It was NOTED that there is a worrying emergence of students who fail their upgrade from MPhil to PhD to seek litigation to blame the supervision. A correlation has been NOTED between delays to upgrades and their success rates. Supervisors and Research Tutors were therefore advised not to delay upgrades even if there are concerns about the student's progress – and to liaise with Registry and the Associate Dean in difficult cases.

42.2 RAE update

Summary points from the meeting between the Dean, Associate Dean Research and RAE Director were NOTED as follows:

- Most submissions will be discipline-based
- A small committee will be set up to provide RAE leadership, to include the Diversity Advisor
- Publications Database – the proposal from Faculty Boards was supported by the RAE Director and Research Policy Committee, and will be considered at Resources Committee on 20 March.
- David Arnold took the view that all departments in L&SS had potential for strong RAE submissions, but each with some problem cases
- A Succession Planning Committee is drawing up plans to secure continued employment for RAE purposes for staff approaching retirement.
- All staff are encouraged to sign up for ARHC/ESRC committees as this helps the esteem indicators.

43 WEB DEVELOPMENTS

43.1 It was NOTED that the paper had not been received from the Communications Manager. However, it was NOTED that the next stage of the project is to confirm and update the content of web pages, so department Web Representatives were asked to be prepared for this crucial task over the next few months.

44 NEW COURSE PROPOSALS

44.1 It was CONFIRMED that the following NEW COURSES had been recommended at the Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee as follows:

- International Law and Comparative Corporate Law (LLM) (Law PG)
- International Law and Comparative Corporate Law (Law PG, MA)

These courses were APPROVED.

45 COURSE AMENDMENTS

45.1 It was CONFIRMED that the following COURSE AMENDMENTS had been recommended at the Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee as follows:

- 45.1.1 (a) these are amendments to CeFiMS Distance Learning courses not previously approved by Faculty Board:
- PPM207 Privatisation and Public-Private Partnerships
 - FFL111 Banking and Finance
 - FFL114 Bank Financial Management
 - PPM204 Project Appraisal and Impact Analysis
 - FM204 Risk Management: Principles and Applications
 - FE203 Exchange Rates and International Finance
 - PPM207 Privatisation and Public-Private Partnerships
 - FE201 The International Monetary Fund and Economic Policy
 - FM207 The Japanese Financial System
 - PPM205A Public Policy and Management Research: Principles and Management
 - PPM205B Dissertation

These amendments were APPROVED.

45.1.2 (b) these are to bring the formal paperwork in line with the actual current practice re assessment weightings:

- 15PFMC039 International Human Resource Management (A)
- 15PLAC008 Comparative Commercial Law (LLM 63)
- 15PLAC092 Colonialism, Empire and International Law (LLM 152)
- 15PLAC029 Ethnic Minorities and the Law (LLM 17)
- 15PPOC026 Comparative Politics of the Middle East
- 15PECC341 Economic Development of the Middle East
- 15PECC334 Economic Dynamics of the Asia-Pacific Region
- 15PECC015 Economics of Industry
- 15PECC040 Research Methods in Political Economy II
- 15PECH001 Economics, Social Theory & Development

These amendments were APPROVED.

46 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PANEL

46.1 The Registry proposal was NOTED and APPROVED, to be forwarded to L&TPC.

47 COMMONWEALTH DISTANCE LEARNING SCHOLARSHIPS

47.1 CeFiMS' successful bid for Commonwealth Distance Learning Scholarships was NOTED and congratulated.

48 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

48.1 It was NOTED that there was none.

CJH
March 2006
Confirmed by Chair