Minutes

70. Minutes:
The minutes of the last meeting were CONFIRMED.

71. Matters Arising:

71.1 Item 47c: The revised version of the MA/MSc Marking Award and Classification Scheme for the MA, MMus and MSc incorporating the points raised at the last meeting, was ACCEPTED and WELCOMED by the FLTC members.

71.2 Item 48: Procedure for marking exam scripts: FLTC NOTED that the Faculty Board declined to consider a change to exam marking procedure at the present time, in view of the current situation. It was NOTED, however, that the pre-printed proforma could informally be used. Suggestions to shorten the form and also to allow space for four answers were NOTED and would be referred back to the Faculty Administrator.

71.3 Item 58: FLTC NOTED that the new Economics course proposal provisionally entitled Econometrics 3 (subsequently re-titled ‘Applied Econometric Techniques’) was still awaiting clarification. As soon as this was done, it was AGREED that Chair’s action would be taken to RECOMMEND on behalf of the FLTC for the Faculty Board to APPROVE.

71.4 Item 63: FLTC ACCEPTED the decision made by the Law Department, not to change the title of the course ‘Public International Law with Special Reference to Asia and Africa’.

71.5 Item 65: The syllabi for Geography courses, available at Kings College were NOTED. The Deputy Registrar specified that it was important to note that the Masters Geography courses would only be available to SOAS Postgraduate Master students if the courses were specified as part of the syllabus. The courses would not be freely available.
72. **Welfare Services – Report for the Summer Term 2006:**
FLTC RECEIVED and NOTED the report, (Appendix A) from the Student Welfare Officer. The Student Welfare Officer explained that the full figures and details would be included in the Annual Report. Attention was brought to the Access to Learning Funds, and that as this was rapidly running out, permission was given by the Executive Board to use some of the SOAS Hardship fund to supplement it. The Russell Square drop-in welfare surgery was also a success. FLTC NOTED the only problem was space, a permanent location at Russell Square would be beneficial to the students.

73. **Counselling and Disability Services for the Summer Term 2006:**
The Counselling Services and Disability report was RECEIVED and NOTED by the FLTC.

74. **Mitigating Circumstances:**
FLTC CONSIDERED the questions raised on what is good and consistent practice when presenting mitigating circumstances.

The Deputy Registrar announced that a Special Assessment Panel Committee would be set up next session which would report to the L&TPC. Its purpose would be to look at level of detail required for mitigating circumstances cases.

No conclusion was arrived at. It was AGREED that further consideration would be given to this item next session.

75. **New Half Unit Course to be taught at New York University London – Bedford Square:**
The new half unit course entitled ‘State and Society in Africa with special reference to Ghana’ was CONSIDERED. It was NOTED that there was some overlap with existing SOAS Politics course ‘State and Society in Africa’. The Deputy Registrar reported that he was waiting to hear from Head of the Politics Department as to whether or not this course should be available to SOAS students registered for BA Politics or BA Politics and another subject. Once the Deputy Registrar had heard from the Head of Politics Department, FLTC were happy for Chair’s Action to be taken by the AD and RECOMMENDATION for APPROVAL made to the Faculty Board.

Subsequent to the FLTC meeting, the Head of Politics Department confirmed that in order to prevent duplication of same coursework. SOAS students who were to take the ‘State and Society in Africa’ course should be barred from taking the NYU course (and vice versa).

76. **New Development Studies Degree Proposal:**
The new Postgraduate Degree proposal entitled ‘Globalisation and Development’ for September 2007 was CONSIDERED. The following amendments were noted for correction:

- Page 3, Section 19, second paragraph, second and third line the word ‘course’ to be replaced by ‘Programme’.
- The last line of the same paragraph ‘They may also take units outside the department, subject to approval.’ These units should be specified and presented to FLTC for CONSIDERATION before recommendation for approval to Faculty Board is made.

As this would be the last meeting of the 05/06 session, FLTC AGREED that Chair’s Action would be taken once all the above amendments and corrections were made and reported at the next FLTC meeting next 06/07 session.

The Faculty Librarian NOTED that there would be financial implication, but that the Library were happy to go ahead.

77. **New Development Studies Postgraduate Course Proposal:**
The new postgraduate course entitled ‘Globalisation, Governance and Development’ was CONSIDERED by the FLTC. FLTC AGREED (once slight amendments were made and library comments received) that Chair’s Action would be taken and RECOMMENDATION for APPROVAL to Faculty Board would be made.
78. **Programme Reviews:**

The following Programme Reviews were NOTED:
- MSc International Management for China
- MSc Finance and Financial Law
- MSc International Management for Japan
- MSc International Management for Middle East and North Africa
- MA International and Comparative Studies
- MSc Violence, Conflict and Development

The Associate Dean pointed out that MSc Finance and Financial Law programme review should only have focused on on-campus courses and not have included Distance Learning matters, since the Defins Annual Review in February had reported on all Distance Learning Programmes.

79. **Proposal to change BA Degree Regulations:**

The proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, to delete section 20.3.1-2 of the BA Degree Regulations, (Appendix L) was CONSIDERED. The Deputy Registrar reported on the responses received from the other two Faculties.
- It was felt that academic policies should not be influenced by administrative requirements.
- The FLSS student representative felt that it was important to have an exam element.
- The Deputy Registrar pointed out that – in some situations where there was no course work submitted, there was no procedure for resubmission. Whereas with exams, students had at least two opportunities to sit.
- The Associate Dean agreed with History Department that the School did not have a good enough plagiarism control.

As there were objections to this proposal, FLTC OPPOSED the request to delete the regulation and AGREED to discuss this further at a later date.

80. **PG Course Amendment – Law**

The proposal to change assessment method for LLM course ‘Procedural Principles and Ethical Standards’ was CONSIDERED. FLTC questioned the rationale behind this change, given the fact that LLM students could choose courses solely on the basis that they were assessed on course work only. This would in effect mean that an LLM student would do 3 long essays and no final examinations in 3 courses. The change to essay length was also noted as considerable from 7,000 to 15,000 as opposed to the MA amendment of 7,000 to 10,000. FLTC recommended that clarification would be sought first before recommendation to Faculty Board for approval was made.

Subsequent to the FLTC meeting, the convenor for Procedural Principles and Ethical Standards sent the following email in answer to questions raised by the FLT Committee. The response was NOTED and ACCEPTED on behalf of the FLTC by the Deputy Registrar and Associate Dean. Therefore Chair's Action was taken to RECOMMEND APPROVAL to Faculty Board.

‘Response from Prof Michael Palmer – Convenor of LLM course ‘Procedural Principles and Ethical Standards’:

‘(1) Confirm that 15,000 word essay is the LLM norm ... I can't deviate from this.

(2) Insist that my proposal does NOT extend the intercollegiate LLM to a three dissertation degree ....(a) MOST students do NO dissertation at all, (b) other subjects (there are now 200 course on offer for this degree) already offer the option of 15,000 word dissertation, so there is nothing new here, and, in any event, (c) LLM and MA will be synchronised more effectively starting session 2007 to 2008 because of the move to college based LLMs.”

81. **MA Course Amendment – Law**

The proposal to change assessment method for MA course ‘Comparative Procedure: Principle and Ethics:’ was CONSIDERED. FLTC AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL to Faculty Board.

82. **Any Other Business:**

None discussed.