

**MINUTES OF THE HISTORY HONOURS STAFF-STUDENT LIAISON
COMMITTEE**

**HELD AT 13:00 HRS, 23 MARCH 2011,
Room G.15, Doorway 4, Teviot Place**

In Attendance:

Ewen Cameron (Convenor); Alex Murdoch; Julian Goodare; Stephanie Hawkins; Rosie Filipiak (Minutes).

Apologies:

Tom Brown; Sarah Cockram; Louise Jackson; Wendy Ugolini; Andrew Wells; Robert Hay.

The Convenor welcomed everyone to this meeting which was rescheduled from December due to bad weather.

1. Items proposed by student members

The student rep present had not received any issues other students wished to be raised on their behalf at the meeting.

2. Library and study facilities

Alex Murdoch noted that concerns had been expressed to him about the online University Library catalogue which directs students to the wrong place for the Scottish History and Classics collections. It was debated whether the link should be suppressed on the website but agreed that Dr Murdoch would liaise with the Library to have the link corrected. He also noted that HCA had some 7 different collections with approximately 10,000 books, currently many were not catalogued due to lack of funding from the Library.

Ewen Cameron invited comments regarding the new building. The student rep reported that students liked the new building very much but some were still finding their way around, for example some did not know about the study rooms. Dr Murdoch noted that at present there are 60 study spaces available, with a further 10 spaces to be made available in Room 307 once the folio books currently stored there are suitably shelved. Dr Cameron added that he felt the new facilities were very good especially the AV systems in the teaching rooms which were of a high standard.

3. Any Other Business

History in Practice/History in Theory

The student rep noted that students liked the HiP projects, generally feeling they were good preparation for the dissertations, they also considered the workshops as helpful precursors to the project.

Students felt that the HiP lectures were perhaps not pitched at a high enough level and that the talk on Library use was not so appropriate in 3rd year where students already had experience of using the Library facilities, the 9am start was also not favoured. Dr Cameron noted that he hoped 1st and 2nd year Course Organisers would build in to their courses information on Library facilities, and that the topic was appropriate to be repeated to every year cohort as library collections evolved constantly and increasingly online resources were becoming available.

Julian Goodare commented that HiP had been revised for the next academic year with a workshop and project retained as preparation for the 4th year dissertation.

Feedback on coursework

Dr Cameron invited comments on students' experience of the feedback they received. The student rep noted that although timeliness varied with tutor concerned, generally the 3-week turnaround was achieved by the vast majority of markers. She also mentioned that Course Secretaries are good at giving students notice when their essays are available.

Dr Goodare wondered if the relationship between the students and the course admin staff had changed with the move to the new building. The rep noted that the students found having the Reception and Student Support Office on the ground floor very convenient and did not think there were any problems. It was noted there is a rota for reception duty by the UG admin secretaries but students can request to speak to any individual secretary who can be phoned and asked to come to reception.

Dr Cameron concluded by remarking on the low turnout at a number of meetings recently although the semester had not quite finished, and thanked all present for attending today's meeting.