Notes of meeting 27, Thursday 26 March 2015.

1. **Opening and apologies.** In attendance were Michael Lambert (chair), Ann Corlett, John Gore, Michael Neylan, Denise North, Emily Scanlan, Colin Wight, and Michael Jackson. Apologies from Jeannie Douglass, Rosie Giddings, Ross Gittins, Antony Green, Alister Henskens, and Alice Oppen. Guests were Richard Broinowski and Bob Howard from the Australian Institute of International Affairs, NSW.

The Committee agreed to congratulate Alister Henksens in the event of his successful election to the Legislative Assembly of the New South Wales parliament.

The Chair welcomed two new members: Mr. Michael Neylan and Ms. Denise North. Their profiles are available on the web site. The contact information for members has been updated to include these two new members and it is set out below as attachment 2.

2. **Minutes of the meeting of 11 December 2014.** The minutes were approved without changes.

3. **Matters arising from the minutes.** All such matters are covered in the agenda. The action items from this meeting follow the minutes.

4. **Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA).**

Together with the representatives of the Institute, Committee members discussed the development of a partnership between AIIA and the Department. Members of the Department have long participated in AIIA activities, and students have contributed as interns. The goal is to ratify that association and to make it more visible and durable by increasing the formality with an exchange of letters or a memorandum of understanding, committing the Department and the Institute to cooperate in agreed areas where there is mutual benefit. Such a development could include student societies associated with the Department, i.e., the Politics Society, The Sydney Globalist, and the Sydney University Model United Nations Society. Doing so provides these societies with a gatekeeper role of a benefit for their members and also can offer the professional mentoring in working with the AIIA.

A number of areas of potential mutual benefit involving the Department were identified including opportunities for access to internships for students; exchange of speakers, visiting scholars and practitioners in international affairs; research collaboration such as the preparation of a history of the Institute itself as it approaches its centenary and working on a joint research event to mark the launch of the new social science building; student membership of AIIA; on campus meetings of the AIIA; and possible publication by AIIA of select Sydney Globalist articles.

Attachment 1 sets out further information on the proposed partnership.
5. **Best and Brightest 2015.**

Dr Jackson reported on preparations for the showcase. The room is booked, catering has been contacted, the panelists have been identified and will soon be briefed, the draft program is with the Print Service, a master of ceremonies has been recruited, the Politics Society has agreed to staff the welcome desk, Kate Macfarlane and Priya Shaw will set up a registration system and print and prepare the name tags and The Sydney Globalist has been invited to put copies on the welcome desk.

6. **Chair of Department’s Report.**

Professor Wight told members about the Centre for International Security Studies’ Q event and a forthcoming Department event on the Culture of Freedom in April. Noted the successful book launch of the history of the department by Michael Kirby.

He said the student in-take was solid in undergraduates, though he noted the declining popularity of the Bachelor of Arts and the continued development of named degrees, raising the prospect of a degree in politics. He estimated post graduate enrolments at 280.

He reported on his effort together with Dr Peter Chen to translate the legacy nomenclature of prizes into contemporary relevant terms. In the course of this discussion, Ann Corlett suggested that, after the prizes ceremony on 28 May, Government prize winning students be invited to a lunch.

He reported that the plans for the Social Science building continue apace with a goal of completion by December 2016.

There was a discussion of the course World Politics for HSC students. Wight said the Department remains committed to the course. John Gore and Michael Jackson met with David Smith, the lecturer, earlier on the day to discuss the re-newal of this course for endorsement by the NSW Board of Secondary Studies and make a plan for its re-submission. In addition work will be done on seeking to more effectively promote the course.

The Committee agreed to meet a student about a survey of students in government and international relations, however, the view of the EAC members was that it would be more appropriate if a suitable student body undertook the survey.

7. **Chair of Committee’s Report.**

Michael Lambert stressed the importance of identifying and affiliating alumni and a further meeting with the Alumni database manager is planned with Ann Corlett and Michael Jackson.
He affirmed the plan to continue contacting think tanks in the local environment.

He reported on discussion of the Triennial Report 2011-214 with the Head of School and indicated a similar meeting with be scheduled with the Dean.

8. **Cradle of Australian Political Studies.**

Michael Jackson distributed copies of the book to members of the Committee. In their earlier remarks both the Chair of the Department, Professor Wight, and the Chair of the Committee, Mr. Lambert, commented on the great success of the launch. The Committee agreed to congratulate Dr. Hogan in an email.

9. **School Prizes Ceremony.**

The 2015 ceremony will be on Thursday 28 May from 5.40 pm in the Nicholson Museum and members are invited to attend.

10. **Any Other Business.**

Ann Corlett told members about the suite of alumni awards available, encouraging members to make nominations. The web site is [http://sydney.edu.au/alumni/awards/](http://sydney.edu.au/alumni/awards/)

   Jackson reminded members that Mark Scott, Managing Director of the ABC, will receive an Honourary degree at the 11:30 am graduate on Friday 15 May. Scott is a Government graduate. If members wish to attend, please let Michael Jackson know in advance.

   Jackson reported on efforts with Kate Macfarlane to find an institutional sponsor for the Sydney University United Nations Society model United Nations for high school students. The Sydney University student recruitment officer has been spoken on this matter and indicated a willingness to act as the sponsor. The aim is for the officers of the SUUNS to meet with the student recruitment officer to complete matters. That ball is now in the court of the SUUNS. Denise North indicated that in the event that this arrangement does not proceed she could facilitate SUUNS access to suitable space at International House.

   Jackson reminded members that we agreed to have our annual dinner after the June 2015 meeting. Details will be included with the agenda for that meeting.

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**Action Items arising from the minutes of the meeting of the EAC, 26 March 2015.**

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1. **Opening and apologies**

   Congratulate Alister Henskens on his election to the Legislative Assembly of the NSW parliament.  
   Jackson  
   Done. Suggest leave of absence and ask him to attend B&B as backup MC.

2. **Australian Institute of International Relations**

   A meeting to advance the arrangement with Richard Broinowski, Bob Howard, Colin Wight, Michael Lambert, and Michael Jackson.  
   Jackson and Howard.  
   Pending. I have asked Bob to organize a meeting.

3. **Best and Brightest 2015**

   Brief panellists and event master of ceremonies and Politics Society volunteers.  
   Jackson and Gauja  
   In train.

4. **Best and Brightest 2015**

   Development registration system  
   McFarlane and Jackson  
   In train.

5. **Best and Brightest 2015**

   Print program  
   Jackson  
   In train. Waiting for student pictures.

6. **Chair of Department’s report. World Politics**

   John Gore and Michael Jackson will liaise with David Smith regarding renewal of the Board endorsement and promotion of the course.  
   Smith and Jackson  
   Pending. I asked David when the deadline is.

7. **Chair of Committee’s report. Alumni Database**

   A further meeting the Database manager to test the affiliation of graduates with the Department. Corlett, Jackson, and Lambert and Kate Macfarlane.  
   Jackson and Lambert  
   Pending. List of questions e.g., are majors affiliated automatically, Hons?
Attachment (1).

Developing an association between the Australian Institute of International Affairs (NSW Branch) and the Department of Government and International Relations, University of Sydney

Background:
The Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) was founded in 1924 as an offshoot of Chatham House (as it is now). Its founder was a member of the University of Sydney and that interaction with the University has continued in many informal and invisible ways. This proposal aims to make that connection more visible and more durable in ways that benefits both parties, and which may grow in time.

Members of the Department have contributed to AIIA programs and served on its committees creating a climate of trust between the two. AIIA has a rich membership of those who have worked in international relations, through Foreign Affairs, NGOs, aid organizations, and lobby groups. In addition, the Sydney diplomatic community (consuls, trade commissioners, and the like) participate in its events. AIIA can offer a wide variety of contacts and opportunities for staff and students provided both parties can devise effective means to make that happen. In turn the Department offers an array of
scholars with pertinent knowledge who may wish to contribute to AIIA events, and access to many students focussed on international affairs.

To ratify the commitment to develop further relations, the proposal is that the Chair of Department with due consultations and the President of the Council of the AIIA exchange letters affirming the desire to cooperate as closely as possible, given the circumstances of each agency.

In particular, the proposal is to emphasize the student societies, thus providing them with a service to their members as well as opportunities, both secured through the good offices of the Department. There have been preliminary discussions between the AIIA and the Politics Society and The Sydney Globalist, brokered by the External Advisory Committee, about such a relationship and both student organizations have been enthusiastic about it. As a gesture of good will Colin Chapman, outgoing president of the AIIA agreed on very short notice to deliver the Hedley Bull Lecture for the Politics Society in 2014 thereby meeting the need of the Politics Society for a high profile speaker.

The External Advisory Committee of the Department of Government and International Relations is keen to assist the Department in identifying and assessing opportunities among think tanks in Sydney. AIIA was very responsive to the Committee’s approach. Discussion to date have identified these measures:

That TSG would run a free advertisement, annually at least, promoting AIIA membership. The details to be negotiated between the AIIA and TSG.

That the advertisement should include an offer to student readers of TSG of a discounted annual membership with AIIA. Details to be negotiated between the AIIA and TSG.

That the annual careers event staged by the Politics Society would include involvement of the AIIA which can identify and offer entre to a host of experienced women and men.

That TSG negotiate with AIIA about the publication of selected articles from TSG on the appropriate AIIA web site.

That the website of Department of Government and International Relations include reference to AIIA as a “partner organisation” under Professional Affiliations.

These proposals subject to the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations.

Other particular measures may develop from these seeds.

It would be opportune to complete the formalities of this exercise in March and to publicize it within the University and with students and student societies.

Attachment (2).

External Advisory Committee 2015

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**Alister Henskens** 0412 425 744  ahenskens@selbornechambers.com.au

Alister Henskens will take leave of absence from the Committee, because of his election to parliament.