Minutes of meeting 28, Thursday 18 June 2015.

1. Opening and apologies.

Present: Michael Lambert, Ann Corlett, Rosie Giddings, John Gore, Antony Green, Michael Neylan, Emily Scanlan, Alice Oppen, Michael Jackson, and Dr. John Mikler acting for Colin Wight.

Guests: Patrick Hall and Annie Rennie from the Politics Society and Ariadne Sofianidis and Tiffany Alexander from the Sydney University United Nations Society.

Apologies: Jeannie Douglass, Ross Gittins, and Denise North.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 26 March were approved as distributed.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

The re-accreditation of ‘World Politics’ with the Board of Secondary Studies is in train and John Gore has agreed to consult with Dr David Smith to ensure it is completed with success.

It was agreed that it was essential to place an advertisement for World Politics in the History Teachers Journal for July. It was also planned to utilise the high school data base of the United Nations Society.

The continued need to identify alumni of the Department on the Alumni office database was discussed. A meeting will be held in the Alumni Office to get a briefing on how best to use the database, say when inviting for Best and Brightest.

4. Student Societies.

The purpose of the discussion is to meet annually with the student societies to identify planned activities for the year and ways in which the Committee might assist the societies and to encourage co-operation among them.

**The Politics Society**

The society presents itself as the official student body for the Government and International Relations faculty. It has 250 members and held three events in the first semester (welcome drinks; how to get a HD; debate and drinks). For the balance of the year it is planned to hold three functions: public speaking competition; careers guide and function; and the Hedley Bull lecture. The society staffed the desk at the Best and Brightest this year. There was a discussion of its ‘flagship’ event the Bull Lecture later in the year. The Society sought assistance with the following matters:

- Departmental assistance with emailing students to alert to events
- Assistance with speakers for events such as the Hedley Bull lecture
- Organize for AIIA to contribute to a careers workshop with the Society
- Noted that in Orientation Week it is always positioned with the Liberal, Labor, and Greens. Given its academic orientation the Politics Society does not want to be as a political club. The representatives of the Sydney University United Nations Society suggested a direct approach to the Students’ Union Board to alter this.
The Committee asked if representatives of the Politics Society might visit a Department Board meeting to make their work better known to staff and to emphasize communication. Dr. Jackson agreed to organize a meeting with the Politics Society to follow-up on the Bull Lecture and the AIIA relationship. Bob Howard will participate for AIIA.

**The Sydney University United Nations Society.**
The Society has 400 members and holds both internal and external events and its members travel to conferences. The July model United Nations with high school students will bring students 150 students from 22 schools to campus. The relationship with the Student Recruitment office in the Registrar’s Department, brokered by the Committee earlier this year, is assisting with the room bookings and publicity for this event. The importance of cementing that relationship was stressed. We discussed the ‘World Politics’ course for HSC students in January which could be linked to the High School model UN; the need for speakers; and making invitations available the to Best and Brightest 2016.

The key area where the Society needed assistance was in organizing multiple speakers for their various events.

Dr. Jackson agreed to organize a meeting to progress identification of speakers, the World Politics Course and invitations to Best and Brightest.

Speaking on behalf of Denise North, Jackson reminded both societies that International House offers both facilities and participants. She will be included in the follow-up meetings as above.

Efforts to contact The Sydney Globalist and IngSoc failed.

Finally, it was noted that there was merit in seeking to broker a joint events calendar for the student societies as a way to both foster cooperation and possible joint events and avoid conflicts. This would be followed up with at least the two societies.

**5.Best and Brightest.**
There was a general discussion of the 2015 event. Members said they were impressed by the high quality of the student panel. It was agreed to invite one of them to chair proceedings in 2016. The attendance of 120+ was noted.

There was also a discussion of the need to secure feedback on the night from those who attend as evidence of the value of the occasion. It was noted that putting a feedback form in the Programme did not work as it was not visible. One idea was to ask the volunteers from the Politics Society to pass out short questionnaires on a clipboard during the reception to capture some response. Another conclusion was to not use high profile MCs as there is always a risk that they will not be available on the night. Instead it is proposed to revert to the previous approach of inviting one of the previous year’s panelists to be the MC.

We will aim to produce the program in-house in 2016.
Colin Wight has offered to integrate the event more in the Department. Follow up discussion will be held with Colin on this. For further details see the report circulated with the agenda for this meeting.

6. Chair of Department’s report by Dr John Mikler for Colin Wight.

Mikler praised the Best and Brightest function and the Prizes Ceremony. There was a brief discussion of the value of photography at both events. He also noted the Department’s enthusiastic embrace of the relationship with Australian Institute of International Affairs.

He noted the achievements of members of the Department in securing external funding and organizing conferences, and the steady flow of publications, which are the currency of research.

He noted that the completion of the new building to house the social sciences has been delayed six months.

He discussed the University’s proposal for degree consolidation, which is set out in a discussion paper titled ‘Developing a distinctive undergraduate education’. It was agreed that the discussion paper would be circulated to members with these minutes, and that members be invited to provide comments which will be collated by Michael Jackson. It might be opportune for the Committee to affirm anew the importance of clearly identifying majors within degree to demonstrate areas of focus and the importance of a honours year.

7. Chair of Committee’s report.

Noted that Alister Henskens, who stood in as the MC at the Best and Brightest and did an excellent job, has taken a leave of absence from the committee.

Michael Lambert noted he had given the occasional address at a May 2015 graduation at the invitation of the Dean of Arts and Social Sciences.

He and Michael Jackson met with the Dean to brief him on the work of this committee, including providing him with a copy of the Triennial report, discussing the latest Best and Brightest event and advising him on the proposed partnership between the Department and AIIA.

In addition the Dean discussed the following matters:

• noted that the trend was to consolidate under graduate degrees
• desire to have the Department involved with events during the year of the opening of the new building
• the desire to progress a relationship with the NSW Government to provide students with suitable work experience. Michael L indicated that he would be happy to seek to progress this.

He thanked Ann Corlett for her continued support of prizes for students in Government and International Relations, and noted that Emily Scanlan had represented Ann at the
Prizes Ceremony. He noted that Ann had had a lunch with the prize winning students, attended by both the Dean and Head of School.

He noted that the University Senate appointed Ann Corlett President of the Alumni Council now a 12-member group.

He noted that the Senate had also appointed Emily Scanlan to the Alumni Council.

He noted that a Memorandum of Understanding was the next step in the relationship with AIIA and that he was preparing a draft. Both Michael Lambert and Jackson will visit the Department Board meeting in August or September for an exchange of information.

8. **There was no other business.**

9. **The next meeting** will be Thursday 10 September, 4-6 pm in Merewether 397.

Members retired to Buon Gusto restaurant for the annual dinner.

**Action items arising from the minutes.**

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<tr>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Reword minutes</td>
<td>Corlett and Scanlan</td>
<td>Done</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Matters Arising.</td>
<td>World Politics HSC course re-accreditation and arranging advertisement of the course and mail out using the UN Society database.</td>
<td>Jackson and Gore with Dr. David Smith.</td>
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<td>4. Politics Society</td>
<td>Meeting to plan for the Bull Lecture and to develop the AIIA contribution to a careers workshop.</td>
<td>Jackson, Bob Howard, and Denise North.</td>
<td>To be arranged.</td>
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<td>4. Sydney University United Nations Society</td>
<td>Liaise with Department about facilitating email contact with students by the Society</td>
<td>Jackson, Bob Howard (re speakers), Denise North, and David Smith (re World Politics information).</td>
<td>To be arranged.</td>
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<td>6. Chair of Department report.</td>
<td>Arrange for 2015 panelist to chair the 2016 function</td>
<td>Continue discussion with chair of Department to integrate it into the Department.</td>
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<td>Arrange for revised approach for obtaining feedback</td>
<td>Comments to Jackson.</td>
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<td>7. Chair of Committee report.</td>
<td>MOU between the Department of Government and International Relations and the Australian Institute of</td>
<td>Lambert to draft MOU circulate with follow up involving Jackson with Colin Wight and Bob Howard.</td>
<td>Continuing.</td>
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<td><strong>International Affairs</strong></td>
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<td>and arrange a function to celebrate the event at Glover Cottage.</td>
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| Meeting with NSW Government to discuss possibility of work experience for students | Michael Lambert to coordinate |