Minutes of meeting 29, Thursday 10 September 2015.

1. Opening and apologies.
Present: Michael Lambert, Ann Corlett, Antony Green, Michael Neylan, Alice Oppen, Michael Jackson, and Professor Colin Wight.

Apologies: Jeannie Douglass, Rosie Giddings, Ross Gittins, John Gore, Denise North, and Emily Scanlan.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 18 June were approved as distributed. See the action items noted at the end of these minutes.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.
It was noted that apart from two matters all items arising from the minutes were on the agenda. The two action items not on the agenda were:

- the Degree Consolidation exercise: the Committee will continue to monitor developments with interest, noting that there were concerns being expressed by Deans about certain aspects of the proposals
- Faculty interest in contacts regarding work experience in the NSW public service: the Committee will respond to any request from the Faculty.

Professor Wight indicated that the Department is actively engaged in taking on responsibility for the event with a smooth transition from Michael Jackson. Jackson reported that the anonymous donor has agreed to fund the reception after the event at Parliament House in 2016. We will aim for the 2016 event to be in early May.

5. Student Societies.
Jackson reported on further liaison with the Sydney University United Nations Society and the Politics Society.

The Politics Society has scheduled its annual Bull Lecture for 12 October on campus and Professor James Der Derian will speak. Hedley Bull was Der Derian’s supervisor. It was also agreed that the Bull lecture could be publicised on the Department’s web page, noting that it was difficult to email students. In addition assistance will be provided in involving the AIIA with the Politics Society in the careers workshop.

Together with Dr. Robert Howard from the Australian Institute for International Affairs, Jackson met with members of the SUUNS to discuss speakers. It was also agreed that the SUUNS would nominate ten high school students from its model United Nations attend Best and Brightest 2016. In addition, they agreed to include in the Show Bag for the event a one-page description of the HSC World Politics course in the Summer School.
Noted that despite repeated effort it had not being possible to meet up with the Sydney Globalist.

6. Chair of Department’s report
Professor Wight said that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Institute for International Relations had been accepted and would soon be signed in a ceremony complete with photographs.

He noted the achievements of members of staff, e.g., Professor Rodney Smith’s sizeable linkage grant to study whistle-blowers. He noted and congratulated Antony Green on his appointment as an adjunct professor in the Department. He noted publications by staff including Meagan McKenzie. He reported that the occupation of the new building was now projected for 2018. He said that several students were taking part in national and international conferences. Eight members of staff were on the program of the American Political Science Association’s 2015 conference.

There were problems being experienced with booking rooms for the model UN conference and this may require follow up with the university administration.

He also noted that the Department’s end of year drinks were scheduled for Thursday 10 December, which coincides with our next meeting.

7. Chair of Committee’s report by Michael Lambert.
On 20 August Michael Jackson attended a Department meeting to brief members on the existence and achievements of the External Advisory Committee. Michael Lambert was unable to attend because of other commitments. The aim is to make such a visit annual.

The Chair congratulated Emily Scanlan on the birth of her daughter Grace. Members asked Jackson to convey their congratulations. The Chair congratulated Antony Green on his appointment as an adjunct professor in the Department.

He congratulated Professor Wight on the completion of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Institute for International Affairs.

8. World Politics.
David Smith is no longer teaching the HSC World Politics course which has been re-accredited by the NSW Board of Secondary Education. It has been advertised in the History Teachers magazine. As noted above under item 4, a description of the course will be included in the Show Bag for high school students attending the model United Nations on campus.

It will be taught in January 2016 by Dr Gorana Grgic.

9. Alumni
A meeting has been held with the data base manager to discuss accessing information on alumni from the data base, Sydney Student. We are seeking to explore whether we can access information on past honours, majors and post graduates.

Ann Corlett offered her assistance in following up to achieve access to Government alumni.

10. Any other business.
There was none.

Thursday 10 December in Merewether 397 from 4 pm. The Department’s end of year drinks will be that afternoon. We will try to keep the agenda short so as to allow time to partake of libations.

Action Items linked to agenda items above.

4. Best and Brightest. Liaise to transfer responsibility to the Department with 2016 being the transitional year: Jackson

5. Student Societies.
SUUNS invitations to Best and Brightest 2016. Done
SUUNS description of HSC World Politics course. Done
Assist in coordinating the involvement of AIIA and the Politics Society in the careers workshop

Meet new president of Poultices Society: Jackson

6. Chair of Department Report.
Ceremony for AIIA relationship: Wight to advise.
Seeking to arrange the booking of rooms for the model UN conference.

7. Chair of Committee’s Report.
Members asked Jackson to congratulate Emily Scanlan: Done

8. World Politics.
Meet new instructor: In train. Jackson

Continue liaison with Alumni Database manager: Jackson and Lambert.