Minutes of meeting 3, Thursday 31 March 2016.

1. Opening and apologies.
Present: Michael Lambert, John Gore, Michael Neylan, Denise North, Michael Jackson, and Professor Colin Wight.

Apologies: Ann Corlett, Jeannie Douglass, Rosie Giddings, Ross Gittins, Antony Green, Alice Oppen, and Emily Scanlan.

Guests: Gorana Grgic and David Smith.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting of 10 December 2015 were approved as distributed. See the action items in appendix (1) below on page four.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.

Denise North advised the Committee that the NSW government has broadened its approach to supporting advanced education of public service officers. The PSC has established a Leadership Academy, which is letting a number of contracts to various leadership development and executive coaching providers. It has also established a new sector wide Graduate Program, which includes a Diploma of Government. The contract for this was awarded to UNE as a distance learning provider following a closed tender process. The PSC continues to fund participants across the sector taking the Executive Masters in Public Administration delivered by the Graduate School of Government. These changes will affect the Department’s own Master of Public Policy.

All other matters arising are covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. ‘World Politics.’

Dr. Goran Grgic, Lecturer, described the January 2016 group. While the motivation and calibre of the students is high, the number of 8 students is disappointing.

It was noted that we do ask for school recommendations in regard to the students who have nominated to attend.

Dr David Smith led a discussion on increasing the recruitment of students for World Politics HSC. Among the chief points enumerated were:

1. Need for timely and repeated advertisement of the course in the Teaching History journal published in NSW. Dr Smith and Professor Wight affirmed their interest in so doing and earlier contact with the High Schools, say in May.
2. Organize a summit meeting of interested parties to plan a systematic approach to publicizing the course. This meeting would include John
Gore, David Smith, Gorana Grgic, Michael Jackson, Michael Lambert, and Nerida Olsen (Arts Faculty School Engagement officer), and perhaps Jit Loh (Local undergraduate student recruitment, Registrar). N.B. Jackson will meet Ms Olsen privately to initiate this exercise.

3. Make direct contact with schools, through Ms Olsen, as in (2) above and by acquiring the list of NSW public and private schools. John Gore is to advise on how the list is obtained.

4. Dr Smith also signalled his ambition to campaign for the inclusion of international relations on the HSC curriculum, perhaps as part of Global Citizenship in parallel to civics. He noted that a course is provided in high schools in Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia.

5. There were not students sent from high schools that have sent students in the past. The positive aspect of this was that contact has been made with new schools.

6. Need a brochure that can be distributed to high schools

We also discussed the possibility of asking Ross Gittins of the Committee, who has a great following and influence among teachers and students preparing for university, to publish a column toward the middle of the year that somehow extolls such courses as World Politics’ as valuable for global citizenship now that everyone realizes how closely tied to the world of international relations the Australian economy is.

The Committee also passed a motion of thanks to Dr Gorana Grgic for her excellent delivery of the course.

Finally, it was noted at a broader level that the Faculty of Arts needs to make continued efforts to recruit local students.

5. Best and Brightest 2016.

Jackson reported to developments to date. They include:

- The President of the Legislative Council will open and host
- The State auditorium is booked for 10 May
- Catering is booked, but further negotiations will occur
- The invitations are going out in the next few days
- The Faculty banner is booked
- The photographer is booked
- The panel has of five has met Tim Mathews, a panellist from 2015, has agreed to chair
- The program is about to go for printing
- Name tags will be printed in due course
- A registration list is being kept
- The President of the Politics Society has agreed to bring students to staff the desk, handle the microphones, and usher guests to facilities and seats.
Jackson has also emailed eighty schools which have sent students to the Sydney University United Nations Society model United Nations to invite them to attend the Best and Brightest showcase to see how such students mature and development in university.

This year is a transition year from Jackson to the School office in the person of Nena Serafimovska.

Subsequent to the EAC meeting there was a meeting with the panellists to brief them on the event and the dos and donts.

6. Strategic Review.
Michael Lambert led a discussion of the self-review that the External Advisory Committee has embarked on this year, noting the discussion paper that was circulated. It concerns the existence, nature, name, procedures, activities, and composition of the Committee.

Members are invited to comment on any of the above points and the matters raised in the discussion paper, or any other matters concerning the Committee at their earliest convenience.

The review includes consultation with the Chair of Department, Head of School, the discussion at the EAC now and subsequently and a meeting with the Dean, scheduled for 28 April. Since the Committee exists informally at the discretion of these offices, it is important that it align itself with priorities and goals of the Department, School, and Faculty.

At the time of the meeting, consultations had occurred with the Department Chair and Head of the School, and both were supportive of the existence of the Committee and its achievements to date.

The Chair of the External Advisory Committee drew particular attention to the wording in the terms of reference to the EAC undertaking a broader advisory role and the issue of whether the Department initiates the request for advice or if the EAC can initiate advice on its composition. There followed a discussion from which it was concluded that the Committee is not a management committee and it does not intrude on operational matters, though it may express opinions on matters brought to it by the Chair of the Department.

In the interest of further institutionalizing the Committee it was agreed that a representative or two from the Committee should attend at least one Department Board meeting a year.

In the same spirit, the Chair of the Department could bring along a member of staff to each meeting to broaden the exposure of the two parties.
Among its priorities should be continued efforts to identify and communicate with alumni and to work with the Politics Society and other student societies associated with the subject matter of the Department.

There was also a discussion of an annual lecture, directed at involving the alumni.

It was agreed that a revised terms of reference of the Committee would be circulated as part of the agenda for the next meeting and once agreed by the Committee would be submitted to the Department for its approval.

7. Chair of Department Report
Professor Colin Wight reported that Dr Justin Hastings had received a sizeable grant from the MacArthur Foundation, that Professor James Der Derien’s Q forum had another success, that fifteen members of the Department attended the International Studies Association meeting in Atlanta, that the partnership with the Australian Institute of International Affairs has yet to kick in, that the new social sciences building is now scheduled for 2018, an attempt is being made to use the Politics Society to revive the Sydney Globalist, arrangements have been established for the SUUNSSs for a venue for the annual model UN and that the Electoral Integrity Project is subject to discussion on funding with a centre of excellence bid.

It was also reported that a new University Strategic Plan has been released, covering the period 2014 to 2020, and it will be appended as a PDF. It is sixty-three pages long. It was agreed that this should be included in the agenda for the next EAC meeting together with advice from the Department on implications for it, staff and students. The key points noted about the strategy were as follows:

- Introduction of an advanced bachelor degree with the addition of an optional fourth year
- Still allows for the possibility of an honours year
- Path to a PhD through a research masters
- Expanded research program

Professor Wight also reported on the appointment of the Schools Engagement officer for the Faculty of Arts, Nerida Olsen, as mentioned above.

He advised Committee members that the 2016 Prizes Ceremony will be on 25 May at 6 pm in MacLaurin Hall. He said suggestions for a speaker would be welcome.

He closed by thanking the External Advisory Committee for its efforts on behalf of the Department.

8. Chair of Committee Report.
Michael Lambert briefly reviewed the foregoing discussion. Noted that a meeting is to be held with the Dean on 28 April which will highlight the work of
the EAC in developing relations with stakeholders, including high schools. It was further noted that the annual meeting with the Politics Society and SUUNS will occur at the next meeting of the EAC.

Two key priorities to progress in the period leading up to the next EAC meeting are:

- Progressing investigation of alumni data
- Progressing work on communicating to high schools the World Politics course

There was no other business and the meeting was declared closed at 05.45 pm.

10. The next meeting is 23 June.

Appendix 1. Action Items linked to agenda items above.

4. ‘World Politics.’
4.1 Jackson will meet with the School Engagement Officer and then organize the summit meeting.
4.2 Early advertisement in the May edition of the Teaching History journal to be arranged by Dr David Smith
4.3 List of NSW high schools to be obtained to facilitate a mail out with help of John Gopre
4.4 Brochure to be produced, coordinated by Dr David Smith
4.5 Jackson to discuss with Ross Gittins the possibility of an article that highlights the benefits of a course like World Politics and a high school course in Government

5. Best and Brightest.
5.1 Jackson will continue to monitor developments, and to negotiate with Parliament House catering.

6. Strategy Review
6.1 Lambert and Jackson to revise and recirculate the Strategic Review discussion paper as well as a revised EAC terms of reference, for discussion at the next EAC meeting.
6.2 Meeting with the Dean on 28 April
6.3 Colin Wight to arrange for an annual meeting of representatives of the EAC with the Department’s Board and for appropriate select staff members to attend the EAC

9.1 With Kate McFarlane, Jackson will further investigate the Alumni database and involve Ann Corlett and Michael Lambert as appropriate.
Appendix 2. University Strategic Plan