Minutes of 32nd meeting, Thursday 14 July 2016

1. Opening and apologies.
Present: Michael Lambert (Chair), John Gore, Antony Green, Michael Neylan, Denise North, Alice Oppen, Michael Jackson, Colin Wight, Michael Hogan, David Smith, and Jacob Masina.

Apologies: Ann Corlett, Jeanie Douglass, Rosie Giddings, Ross Gittins, and Emily Scanlan.

Denise North entered a correction.

3. Matters arising from the previous minutes.
The continued identification of alumni will occur out of meeting. All other matters are on the agenda below.

Jacob Masina outlined the activities of the Politics Society to date and indicated its plans for the immediate future. He emphasized the close relations of the Society to the Department. During Orientation Week the Society recruited 160 new members. In the first semester it held two diplomatic dialogues session with representative from Belgium and Germany. It also ran an essay writing workshop to which Dr Christopher Neff and others contributed.

Further diplomatic dialogues are planned, along with a seminar on women in politics.

The major event for the second semester will be the Hedley Bull lecture.

He said members were keen on career development activities. In the course of this discussion the prospect of association with the Australian Institute of International Affairs was bruited. We also discussed access to the electronic newsletter Making Policy Work which would be a useful communications medium for the Politics Society to pursue. Professor Wight will also check whether the publication was on the web and if not to seek to facilitate this.

Members also pointed out that the Faculty has an internship program and that inviting someone from that office to give an information session organized by the Politics Society would be a service to members. Karen Walker is the appropriate faculty contact person. Dr Jackson can act as liaison if that is desired.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated Jacob Masina on the successful activities of the Politics Society.

5. Centenary.
Associate Professor (Ret) Michael Hogan pointed out that 2017 was the centenary of the origins of the Department, as he discovered in research for his book on the history of the Department, Cradle of Australian Political Studies (2015). Specifically it is the date on which two lecturers in government were appointed one of whom was Bland.
Professor Wight indicated that the School and Faculty would support an event to mark this occasion and in due course a committee would be established. He hoped that Hogan would participate along with someone from the External Advisory Committee.

The importance of involved alumni was stressed. Denise North has a contact who may be able to help further with the task of identifying alumni.

The Committee agreed to contribute however it may do so.

6. **World Politics HSC.**
Dr David Smith briefed members on the current efforts to enhance this unit’s profile and enrolment. He reported on a meeting with Nerida Olson from the Faculty about schools liaison where specifics of cooperation were undertaken.

At the same meeting John Gore made specific editorial suggestions about how to phrase information to gain the attention of school principals and teachers. Smith incorporated these. Stuart Madgwick, a high school teacher, who had kindly given his time to working on this project, strongly recommended a web site, which makes it real to many high school students.

As a consequence of the meeting and follow up actions the following have been progressed:

- A web page for World Politics has been established on the Department’s website, which includes an enrolment form, a flyer on the course and greater detail on the course
- The World Politics flyer has been redesigned with the assistance of John Gore to speak more directly to students and includes a link to the web page
- A 250-word description of the unit, including a link to the web page, will go into the electronic newsletter that Olson sends to all high school in NSW each term, with the newsletter containing the World Politics article going out in the week commencing 18 July
- David Smith is providing Nerida with the list of students who have done the course and she will arrange providing information on which of these students subsequently enrolled at Sydney University and in which courses
- A speaker will present at an open day for year 10 and 11 high school students for 27 September which normally has attendance of about 700 students

An advertisement is scheduled for the high school history teachers’ magazine, and Smith will be a keynote speaker at their annual conference.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chair congratulated Dr Smith on these major steps forward.

7. **Best and Brightest 2016.**
Dr Jackson tabled a written report. His role in 2017 will be advisory with the material tasks performed by the staff of the School and Department.

8. **Chair of Department’s report.**
Professor Wright said that Associate Professor Gaby Ramia from the Graduate School of Government would be joining the Department, adding to its strength in public policy research and teaching.

There will also be two advertised continuing positions with a 80+20 split on teaching and research( the split between teaching and research can be adjusted over time) which will convert some of the work done by part-time staff into a career path.
Members of the Department have spoken at Australian Institute of International Affairs events. Jackson noted that James Cockayne, an Honours graduate, of the United Nations University in New York City, will speak at the Institute on 2 August on his recent book, Hidden Power. For further information click on the link http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/events/hidden-power-the-strategic-logic-of-organised-crime/

Wight finally noted that in the University’ strategic plan there was the ability to obtain approval for courses to be designated a identified stream with the BA degree and was pleased to report that approval had been given for Government and International Relations to be designated as a stream. Many details remain to be completed, but this a very welcome development.

9. Chair of Committee report.
Michael Lambert reminded members of the on-going review of the nature, purpose, composition, and terms of reference of External Advisory Committee. In that context he reported a meeting with the Dean, noting that the course of discussing the role of the Committee with the Chair of Department, Head of School, and Dean of the Faculty had already been productive because it allowed the Committee to align itself with the purpose of the University, specifically in schools liaison, but more generally in development.

He stressed the need to continue to emphasize the role of the External Advisory Committee with the Department itself by bringing staff members to External Advisory Committee meetings, having the Chair of the External Advisory Committee or his nominee address the Department board annually, posting minutes and agendas on the web site. A revised (in mark up mode) EAC terms of reference will be circulated out of session for the approval of members.

A priority will be to follow up with Ann Corlett to resolve the position with respect to data for alumni, noting that in the future with the recognition of the Department as a stream within the BA the problem of identifying alumni will have being addressed.

It was agreed that a post-meeting dinner for the next meeting would be organized. Dr Jackson will see to that.

10. University Strategic Plan
The chair noted that the university strategic plan was a very broad ranging document which does have implications for the Department. The three themes are:

• Excellence of staff, culture and research
• Engagement with the broader community
• Simplification and consolidation of the organization and processes

It was noted that the recognition of the Department’s courses as a stream within the BA was one important outcome from the plan. Other matters that may have implications for the Department were noted as follows:

• Major expansion of resources committed to research
• Expanded new infrastructure including the new Social Sciences building
• Sydney Policy Lab, though it was noted that this is a very broad and not well defined concept at this stage but will need to involve the Department given its focus is on public policy
• Forming global partnerships, including establishing a China campus
• Virtual teaching and interactive learning
• Introduction of a new advanced bachelor degree with a four year term and the introduction of a vertically integrated double degrees (that is a bachelor and master degree) degrees
• Pathway to a PHD through research masters, the American model

11 Next meeting
Next meetings are 8 September, and 15 December 2016. Each meeting will be from 4 – 6 p.m. in Merewether 397, with the 8 September meeting followed by dinner. The chair gave his apology in advance for the next meeting as he will be overseas.

Appendix: Action items arising from the minutes above

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agenda item</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Responsibility</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 Minutes</td>
<td>Correct minutes</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>Done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Politics Society</td>
<td>Check whether Making Policy Work is on web and if not arrange to put it on web</td>
<td>Professor Wight</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Contact to be made with AIIA to explore a careers event</td>
<td>Jackson, Wight and Lambert</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Politics Society to contact the convener of Making Policy Work to see if it can be used as a communications vehicle</td>
<td>Politics Society with Wight or Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Politics Society to make contact with the Faculty regarding the internship program</td>
<td>Politics Society with Jackson</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Centenary of Department</td>
<td>Committee is to be formed to plan for a function marking the centenary</td>
<td>Professor Wight</td>
<td>Pending</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. World Politics</td>
<td>Arrange placement of advertisement in the history teachers journal</td>
<td>David Smith</td>
<td></td>
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<td>9 Chair’s report</td>
<td>Revise terms of reference and circulate out of session.</td>
<td>Lambert and Jackson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Annual dinner in September</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Arrange meeting with Ann Corlett to progress identification of alumni data</td>
<td>Jackson and Lambert</td>
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