

Minutes of Laws Studies Board
Date of Meeting: 6th November 2006
Time: 12pm

Item	Minutes
1. Minutes from the last meeting	Dr. Peter Jepson explained how and why there were no minutes from the last meeting.
2. Election of Officers	Mr J. Maunder indicates that both a Student Chair and Secretary needs to be established and explains in detail the role of both. Dr P. Jepson adds that a Student Chair is a student who chairs every other meeting, and a secretary is responsible for taking all notes of the meeting. After a vote the new Student Chair is Tarah Al-Jabouli. The Secretary is Lorna Harris, as no opposition presented.
The Constitution of the LSB.	This constitution is presented and all members are asked by Mr Maunder to read it through. Everybody agrees that it is a fair constitution. Dr P. Jepson asks whether it would be more sensible to change Part three to read "...AS and A2 Government and Politics" because the constitution currently reads "...Employment Law and Law rights" His point being although those classes are still available at Strodes, there are no classes of those subjects at present. The Board agreed this was a sensible proposition.
Staff appointments and Student Involvement.	Dr. P. Jepson made the board aware that this years Staff Chair was Mr J. Maunder. Another point under this item was that new board members were made aware of what the LSB was setting out to do. Dr P. Jepson outlined the basic principles behind the LSB – to get students involved in the running of the Law department, for the benefits of their peers. Examples from Dr P. Jepson on the changes the LSB have previously made included <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ways to improve the marking

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	<p>scheme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• More Moots initiated• More Law trips. <p>Another point raised by Dr Jepson was the importance of the involvement of students in the appointment of staff. His question to the board being “Is the views of students on prospective staff a good idea?” Everyone agreed that it was a great idea to have the involvement of students when appointing staff. Also discussed was whether this system worked. Lorna Harris made a point by saying that one candidate that her class saw was very quick in his teaching methods and pace and the class had expressed this. As it seemed he didn’t get the post the system had worked.</p> <p>Another point raised by Dr P. Jepson was to whether the appointment of staff/student involvement scheme should be just with the LSB. However objections to this were that everyone wouldn’t be able to attend due to Lesson conflicts. One idea from Dr. Jepson was to have the interviews in the holidays; however Mrs A. Lindley voiced her opinion that all students should be involved to give a wider selection of views and opinions.</p>
5. SPOC report analysis	<p>Mr J. Maunder explains that the SPOC report is an indication of the feelings of students towards the subject of law during their first few weeks with the department.</p> <p>Dr P. Jepson started off by indicating to the board that contrary to the report not only did he support students he also felt his department did the same, by offering to read drafts of essays and providing slide, but why students might think this was because he didn’t like to “spoon</p>

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	<p>feed” students like they may have been used to.</p> <p>Lorna Harris brought up one of the criticisms was the Read and précis exercise which some students found boring. She asked the board if anyone could find a way to make it more interesting or to install some enthusiasm into the task.</p> <p>Dr P. Jepson says how regular reviews on read and précis methods and how to précis effectively might help.</p> <p>One Board member added that there was a AS & A2 Read and précis law guide books available to aid students.</p> <p>Mr J. Maunder concludes by saying that generally the report indicates the department is content and happy as a whole.</p>
6. Re-establishment of the Debating Society – Student Demand	<p>Dr. P. Jepson explains how student demand encouraged the law department to re –start the Debating society.</p> <p>Ameya Athill discusses that 12pm is not a convenient time for some people who don’t have lunch or a free period at that time. To which there is some agreement.</p> <p>Dr P. Jepson argues that any time is going to be inconvenient for some people but at least by having it in a lunch slot at least quite a lot of people should have no lessons.</p>
Updating Text books.	<p>Dr Jepson says how in Law they change the text books every two years to ensure they are up to date, which is important as law changes, Mrs Lindley agrees.</p> <p>Hopefully apart from that there should be little change because of the cost to the department.</p> <p>One Board member says how there is not enough reference books in the library which leaves some students short when they are looking for books to help complete work. There is a need for more Law books, especially Criminal law books for A2.</p>

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	<p>A representative for A2 politics brings up that the library has even less books from A2 politics, only being about 2 books both of which are quickly being used by other students, so something needs to be done about this. Mr J Maunder said he is in the process of speaking to the library about updating their supply of Politics books.</p> <p>Dr Jepson advises that if any books are wanted in the department then representatives should give their law tutors a book list which will then be considered by the staff and LSB.</p>
8. ID Badges	<p>Dr. P. Jepson explains how the Department of Law have been under criticism for not being seen to be more active in making students wear their ID badges. He also puts across his own views on ID badges saying that he is personally opposed to the ID badge. Dr Jepson also discusses that although he wears his to encourage students to wear theirs he doesn't think he should force students to wear one.</p> <p>Question brought up from this – Should it be compulsory to wear your ID badge? General consensus was that it should be compulsory for members of the college to have their ID badges on them, but on permanent display by wearing them is not necessary. Although, it was discussed within the group that the ID badges provide a security service for the college. One counter point put across was that the ID badge could create a risk when people wear them because it enables anyone to learn of your name, which could put you in a vulnerable position with stranger. Also students felt that most of the teachers knew who was meant to be in the class so the ID badges didn't make much of a difference.</p> <p>Mrs A. Lindley said that she was under the impression that the ID badges were</p>

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	the result of a breach in security within the last 2 years and that hopefully this system should cut down that risk.
9. Revision over Christmas/Easter	<p>Dr Jepson, with support from Mrs Lindley explained how only the students with tests after Christmas and Easter breaks would be set homework. This was to lighten the load for students which had to revise for other exams whilst not having a Law exam after the break, such as AS Law students.</p> <p>A Politics student, observing today's meeting made the point that surely by setting any homework for those who have got a test after the Christmas break is a contradiction from saying the department tries to treat us as young adults.</p> <p>Dr Jepson replies that the H/w is a guideline and the minimum work a student must do if they want to get a good grade. The option is theirs and should they wish not to revise or make the effort then it would show in the exam results, ultimately this is down to students but having guidelines of work that would be useful for exams helps students to excel.</p>
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