

## Minutes of the Laws Studies Board – H07 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004

**Present:** Mrs Lindley, Dr Jepson, Shereena Glean, Simarjot Judge, Michael Baker, Menh Hua, Sarah Neville, Tamsin Lansdowne, Rosa Lamagna and Lisa Incedon.

Action

**Apologies:** Russel Hazel.

Shereena Glean chaired the meeting.

1. The minutes of the previous meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2004, were approved with no alterations.
2. Under matters arising Dr Jepson explained there was no additional information on the possible EU trip and that it was unlikely to happen in this academic year. Simarjot explained that, following his suggestion at the previous meeting of a talk by someone doing a law degree, his friend is available from the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December and this will be arranged with Mrs Lindley or Dr Jepson.  
Dr Jepson also explained that staff have not been checking files as regularly as suggested in the last meeting, but will endeavour to do so in the future.  
Finally Dr Jepson explained that, in response to the discussion at the previous meeting, a revised marking system was now in place and in general all essays are returned within a week.
3. Dr Jepson explained the moot competition, which takes place after the exams in June and is based upon the A2 special study topic – this year robbery and burglary. Changes for 2005 include those knocked out in the first two rounds of the team competition entering an individual moot competition with the final and semi-final held at Magna Carta School, and mixed teams in the team competition. The moot will involve the same scenarios as last year, although it was suggested that a fourth scenario should be created as some students found having three scenarios quite repetitive.  
Details of the moot competition can be found on the student information pages on the intranet.
4. Currently the Laws Department runs the ILEX level 2 course (GCSE equivalent) but next year there may also be level 3 (A-level equivalent) allowing those who have done level 2 to move on. Both level 2 and level 3 are one year courses and in the future, but not next year, there may be the possibility of offering ILEX level 4 as an alternative to university, allowing students to train as legal executives at Strodes. There is also the possibility of the ILEX course being delivered in conjunction with Magna Carta School, although the details have not yet been considered.
5. Dr Jepson explained that there are no changes to AS or A2 law proposed for the next year and that in general students seem to prefer criminal law at A2, but other options such as Human Rights, contract and tort law are available. Students' views on the A2

All

options and whether criminal law is still the most popular choice are invited.

6. Dr Jepson explained that there have been some changes made to citizenship recently but there could be some more changes resulting in a wider delivery of the course and less content. It was also mentioned that it can sometimes be a bit rushed to cover the course in three hours a week.
7. Both History of Law and Employment Law Rights are to be run next year, but Legal Rights will not be continuing. History of Law prepares students for research and writing detailed dissertations. Employment Law Rights is a two hour course, which although currently running this year, is likely to cease unless more students join it, due to difficulties with enrolling students on the course at the beginning of the term.
8. The convenience of the time of the Law Studies Board was discussed since some students are currently unable to attend since they have lessons and are unable to get exeats signed. The suggestion to have meetings after college was unpopular with staff and students and would be difficult due to the timings of college buses, as would meeting before college. The current time of the meetings, twelve o'clock is appropriate as staff and the majority of students are free, with only two out of the eight students present missing lessons to be there. However it was also pointed out that it is unfair to exclude some students simply due to the times of meetings.

Dr Jepson has suggested that, as forums are now to be conducted in all departments, two days should be set aside once or twice a term for forums and students' reviews to be conducted. It was also suggested that meetings could take place in fifteen minute breaks but this was considered unfeasible, or in different lessons or alternate lunches.

Another proposal was that the online forum should be used in place of meetings and although it was decided this would not be appropriate it was suggested that the forum should be publicised more in order to promote it amongst students, either with letters or newsletters. It was decided that a Law Studies Board newsletter should be produced. Lisa will work on the outline and consult with Tamsin on the production of the newsletter.

9. Dr Jepson explained that the student handbook is currently considered to large and needs reducing and students are invited to re-draft the handbook.
10. Under any other business Tamsin commented that the decision taken in the last meeting to invite members of the active citizenship project to join the LSB if there are no members on both is not necessary since at least four members of the active citizenship project are on the Law Studies Board.  
Also, Dr Jepson commented on the usefulness of the mooting competition and essay competition for bolstering university applications.

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