

Minutes of the Laws Studies Board – H07 21st September 2004

Action

Present: Mrs Lindley, Dr Jepson, Taymour Keen, Hannah Hughes, Oren Kopit, Shereena Glean, Simarjot Judge, Michael Baker, Menh Hua, Sarah Neville, Tamsin Lansdowne, Sam Ely, James Faulkner and Lisa Incedon.

Apologies: Russel Hazel.

Mrs Lindley chaired the meeting.

1. Representatives who have changed classes

The first issue raised was the problem caused by students elected before the summer changing classes, potentially resulting in extra representation for some classes and no representation for others.

One such situation has been resolved by the person remaining a member of the Law Studies Board, but representing a Citizenship class rather than an A2 law class. James, elected as representative for C block, has been moved to E block and it was decided that he would remain on the Laws Studies Board, as a co-opted member.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the previous Laws Studies Board meeting were accepted with no alterations.

3. Matters Arising

Dr Jepson explained that he had taken on Shereena's suggestion of a visit to a Magistrates Court and that any views on the student handbook are still welcome and should be emailed to Dr Jepson. Tamsin explained that she had designed a forum website for students to share their views and it was decided that this should be linked to the intranet site. There were some concerns about this, with it being suggested that this was the role of the representatives and that the forum may not be used properly. However Tamsin confirmed that there would be moderators to check the messages and Shereena pointed out that this could be a valuable additional means of communication particularly for students who may not approach their representative. Mrs Lindley called for a vote and it was decided to introduce the forum.

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4. Adoption of Proposed Constitution

Dr Jepson explained that a change had been made to the proposed constitution, based on the possibility of having a process to exclude a student, raised at the last meeting. This is in section 4 of the constitution. Mrs Lindley called for a vote upon the constitution and it was accepted unanimously.

5. **Election of Student Chair**

Mrs Lindley explained the role of Student Chair and James, Shereena, Simarjot and Taymour volunteered for the position. There was a vote, in which James and Shereena achieved the most votes. There was a second vote between James and Shereena, which was a tie. Both made speeches and then there was a third vote, with Shereena elected as Student Chair.

6. **Election of Secretary**

Mrs Lindley explained the role of secretary. Lisa was the only student to volunteer it was therefore agreed that she will be secretary.

7. **Visits/Trips**

Dr Jepson explained the visits being arranged for this year, and that it would not be possible to take every student on each trip, but there are a number of different trips planned. These are visits to a Magistrates Court, Reading Crown Court, an Employment tribunal and the Old Bailey. Dr Jepson also commented on the possibility of an EU trip but emphasised that this was merely a possibility and not in anyway definite. It was suggested that a competition could be used to determine which students went on the trips. However it was pointed out that this may result in only more able students going on trips. Dr Jepson explained the current system whereby students write a letter explaining the reasons why they want to go, and the decision is made upon the letters.

8. **Guest Speakers**

Mrs Lindley mentioned two forthcoming talks; Hamish Brown will be giving a talk on stalking and harassment on Wednesday 29th September at 10am and Robert Evans, an MEP, will be speaking on Monday 18th October at 10am.

Simarjot suggested that someone doing a law degree could also give a talk. It was decided that this would be beneficial for AS and A2 students and that it should take place in lessons rather than organising one big talk with students getting exeat to attend.

9. **Citizenship Project**

The next issue discussed was whether a representative of the citizenship project should sit on the Laws Studies Board. It was decided that if anyone currently on the Laws Studies Board was on the citizenship project this would be sufficient, and if not a representative of the project would be invited to join the LSB. Details of the citizenship project can be found on the internet site and suggestions for the name of the whale on the page can be sent to whale@peterjepson.com.

10. **Examination Results 2004**

Dr Jepson congratulated students on 2004 examination results and presented data showing a higher percentage of Strodes' students

achieving grades A-B, A-C and A-E than the OCR national percentage at both AS and A2.

11. Inspection of Student Files

Mrs Lindley explained that an OFSTED inspection is expected in the spring term and that inspectors will be looking at students' folders. Starting from Monday 27th September students folders will be inspected in the first lesson of every week to make sure everyone has all materials, notes and essays and they are appropriately organised.

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12. Date of Next Meeting

The possibility of having another meeting between October half-term and Christmas was discussed, but no decision was reached, although it is likely that there will be another meeting before Christmas.

13. Any Other Business

Tamsin asked if essays could be handed back within a week. Dr Jepson and Mrs Lindley explained that it is unrealistic to commit to handing back essays within a week and that the student handbook states essays will be returned within a fortnight, although staff will endeavour to hand them back within a week.

Menh also brought up the issue of lessons being disrupted by students bringing essays to hand in. He suggested handing essays in during lessons but this was considered ineffective for students who do not have lessons on the day essays are due in. Dr Jepson said when there is a lesson going on students could take their essays to the other classroom.

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