

Minutes of Meeting

Terrorism Studies Programme Board

04 October 2007

New Arts Building, University of St Andrews

In Attendance:

Sir Anthony Bagnall (AB), University of St Andrews

Mr Nigel Churton (NC), Vice Chairman, Control Risks Group, London

Mr Joseph Easson (JE), Data Manager, CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Martine Garland (MG), Product Development Director (Distance Learning) Informa plc, London

Dr John Horgan (JH), Senior Research Fellow, CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Dr Peter Lehr (PL), Lecturer in Terrorism Studies,, CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Orla Lynch (OL), Lecturer in Terrorism Studies, CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Dr Xavier Raufer (XR), Head of Department, Organized Crime and Terrorism, Institute of Criminology at the University of Paris

Professor Alex Schmid (AS), Director of CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Professor Max Taylor (MT), CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Sir David Veness (DV), Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, United Nations New York

Prof. Clive Walker (CW), Professor of Criminal Justice Studies, School of Law, University of Leeds, UK

Dr Ali Watson (AW), Head of School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Professor Paul Wilkinson (PW), Chairman of the Advisory Board, CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

Mrs Julie Middleton, e-learning Secretary, CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews

MT welcomed members of the board.

1. Apologies were received from:

Professor Keith Brown, Senior Vice-Principal, University of St Andrews

Dr David Garbutt, Module Coordinator, CSTPV, School of International Relations, University of St Andrews.

Mr Jon Purcell, Director of Library Services, University of St Andrews

Professor Fernando Reinares, Professor of Political Science and Security Studies, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid

Dr Louise Richardson, Executive Dean, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

Professor Andrew Silke, Criminology Field Leader, School of Law, University of East London, London

Dame Veronica Sutherland, President, Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge

2. Matters Arising:

MT advised that just the previous day, the M.Litt programme had been given official approval by the University.

After discussions, NC has agreed to organise a system for scholarships to provide funding for the programme.

3. Membership of the Board:

MT detailed changes to membership of the Board, advising that Lady Veronica Sutherland's unavailability is due to the beginning of the new semester and that she anticipates no future problems.

MT went on to announce that the University had awarded Honorary Professorship to Sir David Veness.

4. Certificate in Terrorism Studies:

4a) MG provided the attendees with details of the relationship between the University and Informa and distributed a progress report summary and copies of the redesigned brochure for 2008. MG then advised that the new marketing strategy had proved successful and instead of intakes every six to eight weeks, there would now be only three per year unless demand was too high. Although satisfaction among participants is high, it will be necessary for a major review of the Police module.

David Garbutt and Max Taylor to edit in time for release of final module to the September Cohort.

MG advised that talks are underway for the University of Georgetown to market the course in the U.S. but that it may be necessary to develop an Intelligence Module.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that the Forum is a great success but the Chatroom may possibly be abandoned due to lack of interest and difficulty of time zones.

4b) MT summarised the comments on marking of assignments from the External Assessor who advised that levels are acceptable and PL explained the marking process to the Board.

4c) MT detailed how accreditation had been achieved and explained the value of SCQF Level 7.

4d) A discussion on funding for the Certificate course took place. MG advised that accreditation may lead to funding for personnel by some bodies but the motivation of advancement has found participants paying their own fees. The course is also endorsed by ACPO and Skills for Security and the course is still being evaluated by the Scottish Police College, FBI and Quantico.

CPW suggested that several organisations may be prepared to provide some assistance if we could have them see the value, e.g. ISMA or SI.

CPW and MG to discuss how this can be achieved.

APS enquired if access to Janes could be provided to prevent plagiarism and MG advised that all access to Janes is to be discontinued in 2008 due to high cost involved.

5. Postgraduate Diploma in Terrorism Studies

MT provided an overview of the PG Dip. development and an overview of the programme. MT advised the Board that the qualification should now be achieved in either two or 4 years and that the first draft of Module 2 has been received. With regards to the electives: MT advised that topics had yet to be decided as this was some way down the line and that an Introductory Module to advise students on how WebCT, library access etc all works is in development. MT suggested that a time line is essential as the University is still a paper based institution and this may lead to delays and issues with Admissions procedures.

JM to develop a time line.

APS provided a presentation detailing his work with PL on Module 1 before PL described the format of the Module and provided details of the Lessons.

After lunch, JE gave a presentation of the use and functionality of the WebCT learning

platform which still needs to be customised and provided information on Turnitin, the system used by the University to detect plagiarism.

MT advised that the deadline for completion of the first two modules is the end of November when a copy editor will be engaged to review the material.

MT detailed the Admissions requirements, the composition of the Postgraduate Committee and expressed how Route three, which has now been approved by Registry, will be critical for a number of potential students. MT suggested that it may be possible to provide a one year PG Dip. in 2009 and a future PhD.

One year PG Dip and PhD to be discussed at next Programme Board Meeting.

6. M.Litt submission progress:

This item was detailed in 2 - matters arising.

7. Any other business:

At this point, AB extended congratulations to the Team on their achievements
MT suggested that the Board convene one year hence and welcomed any suggestions for financial incentives to broaden access. MT invited comments or suggestions for extensions to the programme and requested that Members of the Board engage in discussions on topics for the Elective Module.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:20.

Actions:

A system for scholarships to provide funding for the programme to be organised. (NC)
Police Module to be edited in time for release to the September Cohort. (MT & DG)
Organisations to be approached to enquire about funding for the Certificate course. (CPW & MG to discuss how this can be achieved)
Visibility of progression through Admissions process to M.Litt: Time Line required (JM)
One year PG Dip and PhD to be discussed at next Programme Board Meeting (Board)