

**Hebrew and Jewish Studies Department**  
 Staff Student Consultative Committee Minutes  
 Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 3pm on Microsoft Teams

Agenda	Progress & Decisions	Action
1. Welcome	<p>Present: Michael Berkowitz, (MB) (Chair), Neill Lochery (NL), Lily Kahn (LK), Sonia Gollance (SBG), Theodosia Pipis (research student representative), Louis Penner (LP) (3<sup>rd</sup> year UG rep), Sam O'Sullivan (SO'S) (2<sup>nd</sup> year UG rep), Xuye Song XS (1<sup>st</sup> year UG rep), Vanessa Richards (notes)</p> <p>Apologies: Seth Anziska, Victoria Lisek (MA representative)</p> <p>Everybody introduced themselves.</p>	
2. Terms of Reference	The terms of reference and constitution of the SSCC documents had been distributed in advance of the meeting. There were no questions re: these documents.	
3. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising, MB	Minutes ratified. No matters arising.	
4. Selection of Lead Representative	Xuye Song (1 <sup>st</sup> year UG rep) volunteered to be Lead Representative for the Department. MB thanked Xuye.	
5. Reports from committee members to include areas of concern (if any) raised by student reps or other members, ALL	<p>There were no areas of concern raised.</p> <p>MB described a good experience when he peer-reviewed Sacha Stern's class, Introduction to Judaism. All modules in HJS are peer reviewed each year - teaching observation takes place and comments/suggestions are discussed between the two academic staff members.</p>	
6. New and revised programme developments	<p>LK reported the department has been working on revamping parts of the curriculum and assessments. Last academic year a sub-committee of staff and students met and discussed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- re-jigging the first year Hebrew and Jewish Studies BA, i.e. standardising names and levels. The language modules will be renamed to Language 1, language 2, etc. instead of Elementary Yiddish, Intermediate Yiddish, Modern Hebrew for Beginners, etc.</li> <li>- Streamlining the number of level 4 modules. There will be:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to Judaism</li> <li>- History and Literature of Ancient Israel</li> <li>- Jewish History and Literature, 1st to 11th centuries CE</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History (1000 - 1800 CE)</li> <li>- Modern Jewish History (1800 - Present)</li> <li>- Religion, State and Society in Modern European History</li> </ul> <p>- revamping Sources, Methods, Skills course. It will be compulsory for all first-year students in the Department; this should help to create a feeling of a unified cohort. It will incorporate more elements that are relevant to the shared degrees as well as the usual practical skills, essay writing etc. It will be 15 credits over the whole year instead of over one term.</p> <p>Assessments will be standardised across the department. There will be more formative assessment to help prepare for the summative assessment.</p> <p>Changes will come into effect in 2024/25.</p> <p>LK asked if Xuye would like to be involved with the revamp of Sources, Methods, Skills. Xuye agreed</p>	<p><b>VR/LK – invite Xuye to sub-committee</b></p>
<p>7. External Examiner reports</p>	<p>These had been distributed in advance of the meeting. MB conveyed the sad news of the death of Michael Rand who was HJS' External Examiner from 2017 – 2021. He will be sorely missed.</p> <p>LK reported that the current HJS External Examiner, Jaclyn Granick had been replaced. This was due to in-person language exams returning and the requirement for an External with more specialisation in languages. Ben Williams from Oxford has been appointed. Our thanks go to Jaclyn for her year as HJS External Examiner.</p>	
<p>8. Any other business</p>	<p>Ladino – SO'S reported that a couple of 2<sup>nd</sup> year students had mentioned being disappointed that Ladino didn't run in 22/23. LK apologised and stated the module will be offered next year and a free Ladino online summer course. It wasn't possible to run the module this year due to unexpected circumstances.</p> <p>XS reported that some 1<sup>st</sup> year students had asked if they will be able to take Ladino in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year and LK confirmed this is possible.</p>	