



OLC 1st Meeting Minutes

Call to order

A meeting of OLC was held online 12:00-13:00 on 19 Nov, 2021.

Attendees

Attendees included (A-Z):

- 1) Ana Oleart Rabanal
- 2) Daniel Adam
- 3) Hannah De Mulder
- 4) Ivan Anderegg
- 5) Looi van Kessel
- 6) Marat Markert
- 7) Ole Zips
- 8) Sirius He

1. Introduction Session of New Student OLC Members

Specific focuses for individual members

Sirius: Focus on BA International Studies (European Studies)

Ole: The process of choosing and applying for a minor in advance to the elective credit in the third year

Ivan: Language in practice

Ana: Organisational Design, Culture and Behaviour

Dan: People not showing up to workgroups because of fear of COVID

2. Minor on Disinformation

OLC agree with addition?

- The reason the document regarding the minor on disinformation was sent to us is because we would also be the OLC for this minor so we would have to ensure the quality of the courses and set up the evaluations.
- There is general agreement that the minor is a good idea. The points that were raised were that the regional courses are a little bit limited as not all areas are represented or maybe not to the same extent. Perhaps this will be extended if there is enough interest in the future, so if it becomes a popular minor new elective might appear.
- The written information is a bit skewed towards Europe and North America given the lecturers that are involved now. There is also some confusion in the way the information is

communicated regarding whether the minor is intended for one or two semesters. Another potential issue regards the block system as the BA International Studies applies the semester system, whereas the BSc IRO applies the block system. This entail that it may be problematic for BA IS student to choose a minor from BSc IRO courses. Another potential issue regards the course Level as it is not clear what a 400-level course requires from students (as BAIS courses go from 100-300).

- Conclusion: In principle content-wise it seems to fit but we have some questions.

3. Meetings OLC Students Programme Board Students

- PB student representatives often receive specific courses feedback on specific courses but responding to and addressing this feedback and work is beyond the scope of the PB student representatives' work. Thus, it is advised to have semi-regular meetings to discuss feedback they get on specific courses.
- To bridge the contact between the students and OLC members, in pre-covid time, there was a walk-in moment with students and the OLC but this might be more difficult with the current situation. However, we could also do once a month walk-in moment, either online or in person.
- Contact Mirek Bui (Student Assistant Community Building, BASIS) with a picture and short text of us, perhaps it can be also used to promote the walk-in moment.
- Deal with potential complaints in a productive way, to make it clear what the OLC can do and cannot do. Ensure that every single complaint can reach the OLC members so that they can deal with it. Also, it needs to be aware that OLC members cannot be fired.

4. ODCB

Issues with this course, room for improvement?

Typically, the OLC will receive an evaluation from the ODCB at the end of the semester but will only discuss it after the results are found to be negative.

ODCB has received many negative course evaluations from students, which are generally classified into three categories:

- 1) As a pre-internship course, many students expect this course to provide practical knowledge of the situations that may be encountered in future internships, but the course content deviates from the expectations of the students.
- 2) Students generally think that this is a simple course to assist junior year internships. They take this course with a relaxed attitude which can result in unsatisfactory grades.
- 3) Group work plays an important role in this course, and group work has become difficult to perform during the pandemic.

5. Additional Issues

- Online classes: Online classes are difficult, but they should be offered to all students (with or without COVID symptoms) at this particular time. The status quo is that many lecturers only offer live classes, and it is suggested that recorded videos should also be offered. There is a lack of information and communication because the regulations change constantly and the Student Coordinators say one thing, tutors do another, etc. For instructors it is not clear what they are expected to do. Regarding the grades of online classes, it is suggested that students who can take the class in person would have different grades than students who take online class.
- Imbalance in language proficiency: Some people have a background in a certain language or language family, which allows them to get better grades than others in language courses in the BA International Studies. For example, native Spanish speakers in Portuguese classes spend less time and are more likely to get better grades than native Chinese speakers. However, after a brief discussion at the OLC, there is currently no easy way to prevent this from happening.

Next meeting is when the OLC receives the evaluations for the courses of the first semester. The OLC members will each get a set of courses to write a report on and then they discuss the most problematic ones.

Sirius HE

Secretary

14 Feb, 2021

Date of approval