

Triennial Report 2008–2011

External Advisory Committee

Department of Government
and International Relations





External Advisory Committee



In 2008 the Department of Government and International Relations formed a community liaison committee, called the External Advisory Committee.

Members of the Committee offer support and advice to the Department, principally through the Chair of Department. The meetings of March 2009 and 2011 are pictured on the left. The Committee meets four times a year. Members donate their time to attend these meetings. The Terms of Reference for this Committee may be found at the end.

The Committee advises on how best to identify and relate to the most relevant external communities that the Department serves. It can be of particular assistance in placements, internships, affiliations, profile in high schools, and research collaborations.

The Committee consists of alumni of the Department and others who have interest and expertise relevant to the Department's purposes. It combines mid-career and more senior members from the media, education, business, legal, finance, philanthropic, and state government sectors.



Recognizing community partners, October 2009



One of the first public efforts by the Committee was a reception in October 2009 to thank prize patrons, internship hosts, research associates, and others in the community that have supported the Department and its students.



The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Spence, opened the session.

Representatives of the student Politics Society attended, and served on the Welcome Desk.

Mr. Ross Gittins, a member of the Committee and a distinguished journalist, spoke on politics and economics. Ross's



remarks were made available on the Department's web site, though the written words lose some of the droll humor that infused his presentation. This was the first occasion in which the Committee brought together members of the community, current students, and academic staff.





The Committee enthusiastically endorsed the Department's bid for affiliation with the Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs. In a competitive environment such external associations are markers of quality. Members of the Committee worked closely with the Department in development and refining the 100+ page submission that was made. In the course of preparing this submission, the Department surveyed graduates of the Master of International Studies, and implemented some suggestions made in that process. The Dean and Head of school gave invaluable support to the submission.

APSLA members include:	
Columbia	Singapore
Duke	Sciences Po
Ewha	Waseda
Geneva	Yale
Harvard	Yonsei

The APSIA membership may be expanded to the level of the School of Social and Political Sciences. This would make it more durable and position the Department to comply with Commonwealth Government's mandated change to two-years Masters Degrees. In addition that change would make it possible to apply for full membership of APSIA. The Committee welcomes this development and would be willing to contribute to it.

WORLD POLITICS

The Committee was instrumental in identifying the opportunity to raise the profile of the Department among NSW high schools by offering a Board of Studies–approved, University–delivered unit to HSC students called 'World Politics.' Because political science is not well known to high school teachers, many students do not anticipate doing it at university. 'World Politics' will recruit some very high achieving students into the University and Government, but equally it will raise the profile of university study of political science in a range of NSW high schools among teachers and career counsellors.

Obtaining Board approval required a proposal of some thirty pages, developed

Educational Resources Board of Studies NSW

using the experience and insight of committee members working with the chair of the department, and in the later stages the lecturer designated to teach the unit. This proposal differs considerably from the curriculum approval process at the University and the advice of committee members was crucial in its successful completion. In particular the Committee assisted in contacting more than 90 high schools to publicise 'World Politics' and to securing endorsements from more than 30 of them. This is the first time the Department has initiated direct contact with high schools. The course started in January 2012 with students from fifteen schools.

Members of the Committee have given their energy and ideas to the University in other ways.



Mr. Mark McDonnell spoke on 8 May 2009. Mr. McDonnell chairs the committee. He completed two Honours years one Government and another in Philosophy.

They have delivered the occasional address at graduations. Their graduation addresses are available on the Senate web site.



Ms. Ann Corlett spoke on 9 October 2009. Ann is a member of the Alumni Council. She majored in Government.

At graduation, students prize hearing from those who have gone before them into the world



Mr. Antony Green spoke on 9 June 2009. He is the ABC Election Analyst. He did Mathematics and Honours in Government. Mr. Green also spoke at a School Prizes Ceremony.

Members of the Committee have also spoken at events organised by the student Politics Society and met students in other less formal circumstances to offer support and advice about securing support for the Politics Society, The Sydney Globalist, and meeting the challenges of Honours study.

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS DATABASE



The Committee has worked at identifying and updating the contact information for those 10,000 graduates who completed a major in government, or did an Honours or Post Graduate degree.

Thanks in part to these efforts we now have available email addresses for about 2,000 of those graduates.

This is easy to say but it was not easy to do.

Best and Brightest

The most ambitious and public activity of the External Advisory Committee is the Best and Brightest Showcase for IV Honours graduate.

It arose from conversations between committee members and students. Committee members were impressed by the cogency of students' descriptions of their research, and students expressed the desire to disseminate their work to wider audiences. From that interaction emerged the idea of taking a selection of outstanding student work to a public audience in the City of Sydney.

The Committee secured a parliamentary sponsor to use the State Theatre in Parliament House on Macquarie Street on a working day from 6 p.m. These are by invitation occasions, concentrating on alumni and friends.

Members of the Committee also obtained the support of The Sydney Morning Herald to sponsor the reception after the event. A representative of the Herald editorial staff chairs the student panel.

This event differs from the many public lectures the University offers in that it features students, it occurs in the city, and it is by invitation (aimed by alumni and friends).

A program is distributed and it contains the abstracts of all IV Honours theses of the previous year to make the wider community aware of the work our students do.



The 2010 panelists and 2011 panelists

The Sydney Morning Herald

Each student presents a summary of their thesis research, followed by a question and answer session. After these formalities are completed there is a reception. Current students assist in the organization of the event.



The Committee is at work on the 2012 program for the Best and Brightest Showcase. The President of the Legislative Council, the Honorable Don Harwin, MLC, will be the parliamentary host. The Sydney Morning Herald continues sponsorship. 10 May is the date, 6 pm is the time.

The Future

More generally for 2012 the Committee will continue its efforts to engage alumni with current students. Possibilities include social gatherings and mentoring, having already offered to support IVth Honours students who encounter writer's block. It will consider how it might contribute to the Department's recognition by international students. As for alumni, the Committee will continue to identify Government majors, Honours graduates, and post graduates on the Alumni Office database. More than 8,000 alumni are thus identified.

Associate Professor Smith, Chair of the Department, at the December 2010 meeting raised the question of funding of students prizes. It remains on the table for further action.

Visiting Professor Pippa Norris discussed with the Committee her plans for the 80th anniversary of the Department of Government at the September 2011 meeting. There was a wide ranging discussion and the Committee enthusiastically agreed to assist with this event in any way it could. If an effort is made coincidentally to increase resources for the Department, the Committee will likewise contribute to that effort as best it can.



For further information contact Dr. Michael Jackson, Professor Emeritus.
michael.jackson@sydney.edu.au or 0412 194 672

Members of the External Advisory Committee 2012

Trevor Cook



Trevor completed honours in Government in 1981. He is a lifelong reader. He has worked as a public and government relations consultant since 1996 working for hundreds of companies, NGOs, industry associations and government bodies. Current clients include the Media Alliance, ANZ and Mission Australia. He also does pro bono work and is a frequent contributor to ABC Unleashed & Crikey writing mainly about politics and business communications. Trevor spent a decade in Canberra as a political adviser (John Dawkins) and a senior executive in the public service.

Annie Corlett



Annie earned a Bachelor of Economics in 1980 from the University of Sydney, majoring in Government. She was an Executive Director of two publicly listed mining companies. Annie was elected a member of the University of Sydney Alumni Council in 2009. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Council and Chair of the Regulatory Taskforce. Annie has had a long time involvement and active engagement in the Not for Profit Sector. Currently, Annie is a National Board Member of Lifeline Australia. Her involvement with Lifeline began in 2007 as an accredited Lifeline Telephone Crisis Supporter. She has also been a Lifeline Facilitator and Supervisor on Call. She supports the Homicide Victims Support Group (NSW) as a Volunteer Court Supporter/Counsellor and volunteers on the Support Line for this group. Annie is a mother of four university graduates.

Rosie Giddings



Rosie is the Dean of Students at the University of Sydney Foundation Program. This is a one year academic course for International students. A graduate of the University of Sydney, she worked in Medical Faculty for a time. Rosie has a Masters of Science. After living in Bangkok with school age children, she developed an interest in international education. She got a Masters of Education and went to work in the Foundation Program. Her aim is to help students achieve their potential in a foreign environment. Part of that is coming to terms with intercultural understanding which is a lifelong asset. She has worked with many international students who have gained entry to and successfully completed degrees at the University of Sydney.

Ross Gittins



Ross is Economics Editor of The Sydney Morning Herald. He is also an economic columnist for The Age, Melbourne. His journalistic experience includes editorial writing and stints in the parliamentary press galleries in Sydney and Canberra. In 1993 he won the Citibank Pan Asia award for excellence in finance journalism. In 2008 he was made a member of the Order of Australia for service to journalism as a commentator on economics. He is a bachelor of commerce from the University of Newcastle. He has been a Nuffield press fellow at Wolfson College, Cambridge, and a journalist-in-residence at the Department of Economics of the University of Melbourne. Ross is author of Gittins' Guide to Economics and Gittinomics (both Allen & Unwin) and co-author with Rodney Tiffen of How Australia Compares (Cambridge University Press).

John Gore



John is a recently retired chief education officer in the NSW Department of Education and Training where he was responsible for providing advice, print and electronic curriculum support and operational support to schools and regions for subjects in the HSIE learning area. He is the immediate past president of the Pacific Circle Consortium an international organisation of education systems and universities from countries around the Pacific Ocean. He has a long standing interest in civics and citizenship education and has worked with the University of Sydney. His 1998 paper "Revisiting values education: the case for civics and citizenship education" emphasized the international focus on values education and his 2004 paper "The role of the school in citizenship education in an era of globalisation" addresses the move to global citizenship education. He is currently involved with an emerging school system in India targeting the poorest children in communities and provides policy advice, evaluates schools and develops professional learning courses for teachers.

Antony Green

Antony completed a Bachelor of Science (1980) and a Bachelor of Economics (1988) with honours in the Department of Government at the University of Sydney. Since 1989, Antony has been employed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation as the face of ABC elections, covering around 40 elections on camera for the ABC. In more recent years he has also developed the ABC's internet election site into the pre-eminent source of information on elections. He also produces regular publications on electoral matters for the New South Wales and Parliamentary Library, and he also contributes regularly to parliamentary reviews of electoral laws. As part of the 150th anniversary of self-government in NSW, Antony co-edited "The Electoral Atlas of New South Wales", a book that maps the history of the state's politics.

Alister Henskens

Alister graduated from the University of Sydney: B.Ec. LL.B. and is a barrister. He completed honours preparation in Government. A Rotary Foundation Scholarship supported his work for an LL.M at the University of Toronto in 1988. He has practiced law for twenty years, recently appearing as counsel assisting in the Equine Influenza Inquiry which focused on the public service's role in administering the Quarantine Act. Alister has appeared for and against public authorities in many cases which illustrate the way that government works both in the activities the subject of the litigation as well as the way that government conducts litigation. He participates in local community activities, particularly in sports.

Mark McDonnell

Mark is a graduate of the University of Sydney, with B.A. (with Double Honours) in Government and Public Administration (1977) and in Philosophy (1978), his father John was also a Sydney graduate (1949) as is his son Thomas (2008). His career encompasses roles as a government policy adviser, management consultant, industry lobbyist, investment banker and equity market analyst. Mark has a Master's degree in Applied Finance and Investment, is a Fellow of the Financial Services Institute of Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Member of the Economic Society of Australia.

Alice Arnott Oppen

Alice is an OAM and holds degrees in Arts (literature) from Smith College, the University of Chicago, and the University of Sydney, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. After a first career in teaching, writing and feminism, her second career has been serving on boards of listed and not for profit organisations, particularly Arnotts Ltd. and ChildFund Australia (representative on the inaugural Board of ChildFund International, visiting all continents), Family Planning NSW, SH&FPA (Family Planning Australia and its International Advisory Committee) and the NSW Cancer Council Ethics Committee. Alice is founder and Chair of Women's Plans Foundation, raising funds for the integration of a family planning component in overseas programs, to enable women's development and global sustainability.

Emily Scanlan

Emily completed a B. Economics and Social Sciences with Honours in Government and earned a MA of International Law (USYD) and a MA Journalism (UTS). During her undergraduate degree she was awarded the Mayer Prize for Best Student in Political Theory and studied International Mediation and Conflict Resolution at both Rotterdam and The Hague. While a student at the University of Sydney, Emily lived in Sancta Sophia College and was a member of the Debating Society. In 1999 she competed at the World Debating Championships, Manila. She was a journalist with SBS World News and ABC radio and television before joining the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Canberra. She is now training to be a practicing psychologist.

Graham Spindler

Graham has a BA Dip Ed (UNSW), MA (Macquarie), and GDTL (UTS). He was a secondary English and History teacher and then for many years held professional and resource development roles in the NSW Department of Education and Training. Since 2000 he has been Manager, NSW Parliamentary Education Section – extensively involved in civics and citizenship school and community education. He retired from this latter post in 2011. For six years he served as Chair of the *Historic Houses Trust Members*, 2004–2010. He has also served on the committees for the *NSW Centenary of Federation*, the *Henry Parkes Foundation*, and the *Macquarie 2010* project.

Former Members

Other busy members of the community volunteered to serve on the Committee at the outset. They contributed mightily to the early gestation of the Committee and its works, particularly the Community Partners reception and the inaugural presentation of the Best and Brightest Showcase.

Michael DiFrancesco



Michael was Principal Adviser in Financial Management Policy at NSW Treasury. His responsibilities included implementation of budget and performance management policy reform in the General Government sector. He has a Bachelor of Economics with first class honours in Government from the University of Sydney, and a PhD in Public Policy from the Australian National University. He lectured in Government at the University of Sydney. He has published and presented widely on performance evaluation and budgeting in the public sector. In 2001 he shared the Institute of Public Administration Australia's Richardson Prize for the most important article published in the Australian Journal of Public Administration. Michael is currently a Councillor with the NSW division of Institute of Public Administration, Australia.

Daniela Giorgi



Daniela was Curriculum Adviser, Civics and Citizenship for the NSW Department of Education and Training on secondment to the Education Section of the NSW Parliament. She was responsible for providing programs, resources and professional development to support the teaching of civics and citizenship in primary and secondary schools. She also created and delivered the Parliament's public programs, seminars for tertiary politics and policy students and inductions for Government Departments as well as assisting with the coordination of student internships at the Parliament.

Daniela has been a History Head Teacher and classroom teacher in the public school system in NSW. She was one of the writers of the National Consistency in Curriculum Outcomes Statements of Learning which describe essential skills, knowledge of civics. She has two degrees from the University of Sydney and is enrolled in a third.

Debra O'Neill

Debra is the Deputy Director of Australia for the United Nations



High Commissioner for Refugees, where she has worked since 2002. Australia for UNHCR's role is to encourage greater awareness about the situation of refugees worldwide and support for humanitarian work. Her work has taken her to places like Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Sudan, Timor Leste, and Uganda. Previously she worked for UNICEF Australia and Médecins sans Frontiers as well as in a senior marketing role with global hotel group Accor Asia Pacific and ASX-listed Infochoice. She has a Bachelor of Business (Marketing/Advertising) at the University of Technology, Sydney and is currently studying for BA in Humanities (French) at Macquarie University.

Margaret Pollard



Margaret is a Senior Policy and Planning Officer with the Office of Protocol and Special Events in the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet. She has worked with student interns from the University of Sydney. Her role focuses on event-related policy, government coordination and providing resources to help organisers to stage safe and successful events. She has assisted with the Department of Government and International Relations intern programme and is a graduate of the University of Sydney with a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Public Policy.

Jim Sait



Jim has a BA (Hons), MA, UBC; PhD UCL; and DipEd (UNE). While a post doctoral Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, Jim began his first business venture, The Georgian Concert Society. In Australia since 1978, he taught at the University of New England before moving into administrative roles at the University of Sydney and the Council of Adult Education (Melbourne). He worked in Continuing Education, the Sydney Summer School, External Relations and Internationalisation. In 2005 he entered the corporate sector as a Consultant with BSP Executive Search. A consistent motif in his career has been the desire to provide better opportunities for students to achieve their best.

External Advisory Committee for the Department of Government and International Relations.

Terms of reference

The intention is to keep this Committee as informal as possible consistent with purposeful activity. Hence the outline below is offered as a common ground for the start. It is not intended to limit, but rather to launch, activity. In what follows, the word “committee” refers to the group as a whole and also to its individual members. The term “board” refers to the Department Board, which is the meeting of the members of the department.

Purpose

The purpose of the Committee is to offer advice to the Department. Its particular remit is to consider the Department’s relationships to its communities, including particularly, but only, alumni. The Committee will work principally with the Chair of Department.

The Committee may advise on the wider environment of the Department’s teaching and research, for example, expectations of students and parents. It may also comment on trends with implications for the Department. In so doing, the Committee will help the Department to conceptualize its relationships with the several communities to which it relates.

The Committee may also advise on building relations with the communities the Department serves through affiliations, placements, internships, research collaborations, and the like.

The Committee may wish to participate in Department’s activities where there is a mutual interest and benefit, and that may include but not be limited to, guest lecturing in the class room, meeting members of the Department and its students, to discussing approaches to careers with students, meeting students, and more.

The Committee and its members would offer advice and comment to the Chair of Department on such others matters as seen fit.

Process

The members of the Committee would be invited to serve for an initial period by the Dean of the Faculty.

The Committee would meet four times a year. These meetings would last approximately two hours at the University.

There may be occasions when members are asked to undertake some tasks between meetings, and it may be desirable to form subcommittees as the need arises.

The Chair of Department would report to the Advisory Committee on the Department's activities and identify points of consideration, and would report to the Department Board on the Advisory Committee's activities.

The Committee would be chaired by one of its members.

From time to time there would be occasion for the Committee to meet members of the Department.

The Committee has the power to add new members.

No remuneration attaches to service on this committee.