**School President of International Relations Semester One Report**

**George Watts- President of the School of International Relations**

This report details my activities throughout my first semester as School President, and looks ahead to what can be expected this term. When I decided to run for election in February, *this* is not what I had envisaged. “It’ll all blow over” they said; “you’ll be back at uni by September” they said. Yet, here we are. This has been a year of adaptation, and of overcoming technological incompetence in an attempt to deliver something resembling a student experience for this school.

**Weekly Emails**

I have been sending emails weekly detailing events within the school and in the general university that may be of interest to IR students. I hope that this term’s Cat of the Week will add a spark of energy to these proceedings.

**Demystifying Honours**

Perhaps my manifesto’s key point was making the honours transition smoother and more informed for students. I hope that the planned Honours Fayre and Honours Student Drop In which are currently in the works will prove to be fruitful to this end.

**Careers Events**

I have been working with the Careers’ Centre and SPAG to ensure that we have careers events that are relevant to *all* IR students with our diverse interests. The event with Dr. Krystalli and Mr. Phillips at the tail end of last term was particularly successful. This term, we will be collaborating with the Biology Society, the Russian Department and the Economics Department to provide a multitude of events, as well as scheduled Alumni Panels at the end of the term, which deliver on my desire to ‘streamline’ careers events into particular fields of interest (public sector, financial work etc).

**Conversation and Seminar Series on Racism in International Relations**

For the past term, a major part of my efforts has been centred around creating an ongoing conversation series with the department along the lines of examining racism in IR. Our inaugural launch event is taking place on March 12th, and I am excited to get as many students involved as possible in this critical conversation to help us understand the academic space within which we operate.

**SSCC and Committees**

I spent a lot of time chairing Student Staff Consultative meetings, and working on the EDI, TLAF, and SPAG committees ensuring the everyday running and improvement of the student experience.

**Places to Improve**

I’m eager to be slightly more innovative. With so much to do, and a lot of personal grief that as arisen since the pandemic, finding the motivation to hold regularly exciting and new things has been occasionally lacking. If anyone is reading this, has gotten this far, and has any ideas for what I can do between now and July I would be super excited to help you actualise an event idea!

Warmly,

George