

19th March 2015

Joint Statement:

University of Surrey / Political Studies Association of the UK

A set of proposals for the restructuring of the Faculty of Arts and Human Sciences at the University of Surrey was recently distributed to staff. This document contained specific proposals in relation to the future of the Department of Politics. A consultation process based on these proposals has now opened and will close on the 8 May 2015. The outcomes of this consultation will be announced on 18 May 2015.

The Department of Politics at the University of Surrey is a relatively new department that was established in 2003. Significant investments were made in 2012 and the department has achieved excellent results in terms of student satisfaction, student performance and outreach activities. Several staff have received awards in relation to Teaching and Learning and elements of departmental activity, for example in relation to Applicant Days, have been adopted as 'Best Practice' across the University. The University of Surrey remains committed to Politics as a vital discipline within the social sciences that has much to offer all subjects areas.

However, student numbers, research income and research profile have been disappointing, and the current consultation reflects the need to address these issues. The current proposal to reduce the size of the department from fourteen staff to five predominantly teaching-focused staff is a starting point for a discussion on achieving a sustainable department and developing a strategy for the future. **No decisions have been taken and the University would welcome the submission of a new strategic plan for the Department of Politics that embraces the need for change with a commitment to research-led teaching.**

The Political Studies Association will now be advising departmental staff and deans as they consider strategic options as part of the current consultation process. The focus of this work will be to develop and strengthen the Department's teaching, research and impact.

Prof. Sir Christopher Snowden, Vice Chancellor, University of Surrey

Prof. Matthew Flinders, Chair, Political Studies Association of the United Kingdom