

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

OPEN MEETING OF STAFF, GRADUATES AND UNDERGRADUATES

The Open Meeting of Philosophy Staff and Students was held on Tuesday 16 October 2012 at 1.10 p.m. in the RFB Room 326, Faculty of Philosophy, Sidgwick Site.

Present: Margrit Edwards (Chief Secretary), Tim Crane (Chair of the Faculty Board, in the Chair), Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Charlie Evans (Secretarial Assistant), Vittoria Fallanca, Rachel Robertson, Adam Lalak, Peter Zhokovsky, Beatrice Patrick.

Professor Crane opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

- 1 Minutes of the Open Meeting of 18 October 2011 were approved.
- 2 Brief report by the Chair of the Faculty, Professor Tim Crane:
Professor Crane briefly reported on the business of the past academic year. He mentioned staff changes for 2012–13, and noted that three new lecturers have been appointed – Dr Tim Button, Dr Angela Breitenbach and Dr Paulina Sliwa. It was also noted that three temporary appointments have been made – Dr Nicholas Vrousalis will be at the Faculty until December 2013 to cover for Dr Clare Chambers, while Dr Chris Thompson and Dr Luca Incurvati have been appointed until 30 September 2013 to cover for Dr Serena Olsaretti and Prof Alex Oliver respectively.
It was further noted that two members of staff have resigned from the Faculty – Dr Serena Olsaretti (who was previously on leave) and Dr Fraser MacBride (who will leave at the end of December 2012). These two posts will be advertised in due course.

Prof Tim Crane explained that he is the Chair of the Faculty Board for 2012-13, and that Dr Arif Ahmed is the Undergraduate Co-ordinator for the Faculty until 14 January 2013, and then Dr Hallvard Lillehammer will be Co-ordinator until 30 September 2014. Prof Crane also reported that Dr Fraser MacBride is Director of Graduate Studies for MT 2012, followed by Prof Huw Price in Lent and Easter Term 2013. It was further noted that Prof Huw Price is also MPhil Co-ordinator for 2012-13.

Prof Crane mentioned that there had been some small syllabus changes, and that students were consulted on these changes via the Staff-Student Committee.

It was noted that from October 2012, the teaching of the formal part of the Part IA Logic paper has changed substantially. It was reported that the Faculty now uses a new textbook: *forallx: Cambridge version* and this is freely available online at <http://www.nottub.com/forallx/shtml>

It was explained that students are learning a natural deduction system instead of a tableaux system. Students will not be lectured on the deductive system until Lent Term 2013.

It was reported that the Faculty reading list has been updated to accommodate these changes. It was also noted that a mock exam paper will be uploaded to the Faculty website, together with sample answers.

The syllabus will remain the same, with the exception of the following:

3. *Logic*

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least eight set, including at least one from each section.

Section A: Formal Logic

- Basic concepts: formalized languages; object-language and metalanguage; use and mention; validity, implication and consistency.
- **Truth-functional logic** **Propositional logic**: truth-functions, tautologies, proof; soundness and completeness.
- **Introduction to first-order logic** **Introduction to predicate logic**: the language of quantifiers and variables; validity and counterexamples; elements of the logic of identity.
- Classes and relations.
- Elements of probability calculus.

Section B: Philosophical logic

- Problems of translation between natural and formal languages.
- The theory of descriptions.
- Necessity, analyticity and the a priori.
- Meaning, intention and conventions.

Prof Crane also reminded students that the unreserved minutes of the Faculty Board meetings are available for consultation in the Faculty Office, as are the minutes of the Staff-Student Committee meetings (Staff-Student Committee meeting minutes from October 2010 onwards are also available on the Faculty website). Prof Crane explained that these minutes are made available in order to make the Faculty as transparent as possible.

3 The Staff-Student Committee:

A short outline of the way the Staff-Student Committee functions was circulated. Prof Crane explained that the Staff-Student Committee meets once a term to discuss matters of importance to students. Prof Crane explained that for example during 2011-12, the Staff-Student Committee discussed the issue of gender within the Faculty, and addressed which best practice could be used in discussion groups, etc to lessen any gender imbalance. It was noted that the Staff-Student Committee is a formal channel for students to express views, that will then be considered by the Faculty Board meeting which next follows the meeting of the Staff-Student Committee. It was also explained that when Faculty Board is considering taking action that will directly impact on students, they will seek students opinions via the Staff-Student Committee. Prof Crane encouraged students to serve as reps on the Staff-Student Committee, because he feels that it is an effective way for students to have an impact on their education. It was noted that the Staff-Student Committee works most efficiently if students initially raise any issues with their Student Reps, who can then seek the opinions of their fellow students on these issues before bringing

them to the SSC. If students bring concerns direct to the Staff-Student Committee without consulting their fellow students, it can be difficult to know what the consensus is on an issue, and this can waste time.

4 Representatives on the Staff-Student Committee:

Student members were sought from all Parts of the Tripos and from amongst the graduates. It was explained that students who agree to be representatives for their year group perform a different function from elected Faculty Board Representatives (see below for more information on elections for Faculty Board Reps). It was noted that it is hoped that at least two students from each Part of the Tripos would act as student representatives on this Committee for their year group. It was noted that the Chair and the Secretary of the Faculty Board are ex-officio members of the Committee.

The following students have agreed to represent their year groups from 16 October 2012 until the next Open Meeting in the Michaelmas Term 2013:

Representing IA:	Adam Lalak	(Churchill)
	Peter Zhukovsky	(Churchill)

Representing Part IB:	Rachel Robertson	(St Catherine's)
	Vittoria Fallanca	(Churchill)

Representing Graduates: MPhil:	Beatrice Patrick	(Newnham)
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It was agreed that the Faculty Office would contact Part II and Ph.D. students to see whether any of them would also be willing to serve as representatives.

5 Dates of the Staff-Student Committee Meeting

A document showing the dates for the three SSC meetings in 2012-13 was circulated. It was noted that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 30th October, at 1.05pm in RFB room 326. Students were also encouraged to look at the Undergraduate Calendar, which can be found on the Philosophy website at:

http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/u_grads/u_grads_dates.html

and which shows the dates for all SSC meetings, amongst other important dates.

6 The following announcements were noted:

Election of Chair of the Staff-Student Committee

It was noted that the Committee will be asked to elect a Chair at the next Staff-Student Committee meeting.

Student Election to the Faculty Board

It was reported that the elections for student representatives on the Philosophy Faculty Board will be held on **Tuesday 27 November 2012** with the closing of nominations a week earlier on **20 November 2012**.

It was further reported that this year, the Faculty will again be using an online voting system for the student elections. The Faculty will continue to use this system as no student objections have been raised.

Student Representatives on the Councils of the Schools

It was noted that all students on the electoral roll also have the chance to be elected to serve on Councils of the Schools. It was explained that the Philosophy Faculty is part of the School of Arts and Humanities, which in turn is one of six schools within the University. It was explained that while a Philosophy student could stand for election to the Council there is no requirement for the Faculty to provide a candidate, since the philosophy Faculty is one of eight Faculties which come under the School of Arts and Humanities. It was noted that the elections for Student Representatives for the Councils of the Schools will also use the on-line ballot and will be managed by the Education Section. It was further noted that the date has yet to be confirmed by the Council of the Schools, but is likely to take place on the same day as the elections for Faculty Board Student Reps. CUSU and the Education Section will contact students directly about this.

Faculty Reps – who are they and what do they do?

A document from CUSU (prepared last year) was circulated.

Suggestion Box

Attention was drawn to the suggestion box in the Old Library where students are invited to post any comments they wish to make on any Faculty related matter. Prof Crane encouraged students to fill in questionnaires at the end of lecture series, but explained that anyone wishing to comment on any lecture courses or seminars before the end of term should do so via the suggestion box.

The meeting ended at 13.45h.