

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

OPEN MEETING OF STAFF, GRADUATES AND UNDERGRADUATES

The Open Meeting of Philosophy Staff and Students was held on Tuesday 18th October 2016 at 1.10 p.m. in the Board Room, Faculty of Philosophy, Sidgwick Site.

Present: Charlie Evans (Secretarial Assistant), Professor Tim Crane (Chair of the Faculty Board, in the Chair), Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Eugene Chua, Tara Alia Khalid, Anni Raty, Paula Keller, Ege Yumusak, Farbod Akhlaghi-Ghaffarokh, Iván Merker.

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

1 Minutes of the Open Meeting of 20th October 2015 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 began by outlining staff changes for 2016–17. The new members of staff mentioned were:

Temporary Lecturers

Dr Martin Steenhagen has been appointed from 1st October 2016 until 30th September 2017 on the New Directions project.

Dr Nakul Krishna, has been appointed for 4 years from 1st October 2016 until 30 September 2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Dr Laura Gow has been appointed from 1st August 2016 until 31 July 2017 on the New Directions project.

Dr Remco Heesen has been appointed from 1st September 2016 until 31 August 2019.

Part-time Research Project Administrator

Mr Alexander Greenberg has been appointed from 1st August 2016 to 31st December 2017 on the New Directions project.

It was noted that there are also a number of other College Junior Research Fellows who have joined the University. Details can be found here:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/people/teaching-research>

Prof Crane also outlined which administrative roles academic members of staff would be carrying out in 2016-17. He also noted that he would in fact be leaving the Faculty at the end of July 2017:

Chair of the Faculty Board

Prof Tim Crane for 2016-17

Director of Graduate Studies

Prof Richard Holton for 2016-17

Director of Graduate Admissions

Dr Clare Chambers for 2016-17

MPhil Course Director

Dr Tom Dougherty for MT 16 & LT 17

Prof Huw Price for ET 17

Undergraduate Co-ordinator

Dr Paulina Sliwa for 2016-17

Chair of Examiners for Part IA, Part IB & Part II

Dr Arif Ahmed for 2016-17

Prof Crane explained that there had been some syllabus changes for 2016-17, and he outlined that students were consulted on these changes via the Staff-Student Committee before they were finalized (see minutes of the SSC meeting of Feb 2nd, 2016: http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/student-feedback-folder/copy_of_SSCMinutes_02_02_16.pdf). He also explained that most of these changes were small, and that the main one for students to note was that in Part II, there is now a paper (paper 9) on Wittgenstein, whereas previously this had just been a special topic paper which could change from year to year. Students were reminded that the current syllabus can be found on the Faculty website here: <http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/IA/GtC> along with course notes and reading lists.

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, which means that students who wish to be reps would only be committing to three meetings per year. 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 that next follows the meeting of the Staff-Student Committee. It was further explained that the Philosophy Faculty is run by the Faculty Board, which is in essence another committee, made up of the 12 members of permanent teaching staff in the Faculty, plus representatives from cognate Faculties such as Classics and Experimental Psychology. Faculty Board takes decisions about the running of the Faculty through discussion and voting. It was also explained that when the Faculty Board is considering taking action that will directly impact on students, they would seek students' opinions via the Staff-Student Committee. Prof Crane encouraged students to serve as reps on the Staff-Student Committee, because 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. It was noted that students who agree to serve on the Staff-Student Committee can contact their fellow students through the student year group email lists (phil-students16@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part IA, phil-students15@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part IB and phil-students14@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part II). It was also explained that ahead of the three meetings of the Staff-Student Committee, student reps will be given the chance to put forward items to go on the agenda to be discussed at the meeting. It was also noted that students can find copies of the minutes of previous Staff-Student Committee meetings online:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/student-feedback-folder/staff-student-minutes>

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 agreed at the meeting to represent their year groups from 18th October 2016 until the next Open Meeting in the Michaelmas Term 2017:

Representing IA:	Iván Merker	SID
Representing IB:	Tara Alia Khalid	SID
	Paula Keller	N
Representing II:	Anni Raty	TH
	Eugene Chua	W
Representing Graduates:	Ege Yumusak (MPhil)	N
	Farbod Akhlaghi-Ghaffarokh (MPhil)	DAR

It was noted that there were no PhD representatives, and only one Part IA representative. Charlie Evans said that she would email the relevant year groups to see if any other students would be willing to join the Committee.

Prof Crane explained that for the future SSC meetings in 2016-17, a student would be required to chair the meeting. Farbod Akhlaghi-Ghaffarokh agreed that he would take on the role of Chair.

5 Dates of the Staff-Student Committee Meeting

A document showing the dates for the three SSC meetings in 2016-17 was circulated. It was noted that the next meeting take place on Tuesday 1st November, at 1.05pm in the Faculty Board Room. Students were also encouraged

to look at the Undergraduate Calendar, which can be found on the Philosophy website which shows the dates for all SSC meetings, amongst other important dates: <http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/important-dates-folder/ugrads-calendar>

6 The following announcements were noted:

Student Election to the Faculty Board

It was reported that the elections for student representatives on the Philosophy Faculty Board would be held on **Tuesday 22nd November 2016** with the closing of nominations a week earlier on **17th November 2016**.

It was noted that elections would be organised via an online voting system, and that students would receive further information on this nearer the time.

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

A document from CUSU was circulated. Alia Khalid, who is one of the current Faculty Reps, explained that she had found the role interesting, and knew that she was able to speak out at Faculty Board meetings when there were issues affecting her year group.

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 that come under the School of Arts and Humanities. It was also explained that the Council of the Schools is less of a decision making body, and more for reporting. However, if students were interested in learning more about the working and administration of the University, this would be a good council to sit on. It was noted that the elections for Student Representatives for the Councils of the Schools would also use the on-line ballot and would 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 November 26th/27th. CUSU and the Education Section would contact students directly about this.

Cambridge Postgraduate Open Day

It was reported that the University would be holding its first Postgraduate Open Day on Wednesday 2nd November 2016. Students were asked to see the following webpage for more details:

<http://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/news/postgraduate-open-day-date-your-diary>

It was noted that there would be an information stand in the Law Faculty Foyer in the morning, as well as events arranged by the Faculty in the afternoon, including a tour of the Faculty.

It was reported that Graduate student volunteers for the information stand are being sought. It was also noted that any help at all, even for just a short period,

would be very much appreciated. It was reported that Zoe Walker-Fagg would be making the administrative arrangements, in liaison with Prof Richard Holton, Dr Clare Chambers and Dr Tom Dougherty.

Any students interested in volunteering to help on the stand for one or more two hour slots, or helping with the short tour(s), were asked to contact Zoe.

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. It was noted that the suggestion box was introduced so that students would have another way of passing on concerns/suggestions in addition to filling out lecture questionnaires. It was noted that if students need confidential advice on any matters, support could be found at:

<http://www.studentadvice.cam.ac.uk/>

7 Any Other Business

Initiatives in the Faculty

Prof Crane reported that there are two current initiatives in the Faculty – working towards the Green Impact Awards - <http://sustainability.nus.org.uk/green-impact> , and towards the Athena SWAN charter - <http://www.ecu.ac.uk/equality-charters/athena-swan/> . He explained that during the previous academic year, the Faculty had been awarded a Bronze Green Impact award, and would be working towards a Silver Award in 2016-17. It was noted that it is hoped that some students will want to join the Faculty's "Green Team" to find ways to make the Faculty greener.

Prof Crane also went on to speak about the Athena SWAN award that the Faculty is working towards. It was explained that this is a national award, given at various levels, which recognizes the advancement of gender equality, and a fairer representation of women at higher career levels. Prof Crane explained that within the Philosophy Faculty, there is concern that while the gender split at undergraduate level is generally 50/50, this isn't the case at graduate level (for example it was noted that this year, there are only 2 female MPhil students). It was explained that the Faculty is therefore keen to find out why this drop off occurs, and to raise awareness about questions relating to gender. Prof Crane explained that the Faculty has already been making changes to policies and activities, and he further explained that even if these changes might seem small, they are about embedding a change in the culture of the Faculty. It was explained that the Faculty had previously taken part in a small pilot for a "Gender Equality Chartermark" but had received mixed feedback, with the result that there is awareness of the need for improvement. Heather Sanderson explained that Prof Rae Langton would be the lead academic helping the Faculty work towards what will hopefully be a silver Athena SWAN award, and Heather reported that Prof Langton is very enthusiastic about her role. Heather Sanderson went on to explain about two particular instances where changes have been made to policies in the Faculty in relation to gender. She explained that in 2012, following discussions at the Staff-Student Committee, some students had carried out a survey, and reported that there were various gender issues. In response to this, a working groups was set up under the guidance of Prof Jane Heal and Dr Arif Ahmed, to

agree on various action points, including, for example, making sure to advise discussion group leaders and logic class leaders on the importance of being aware of making their classes inclusive, and teaching them to be aware of gender issues (see minutes for further details: <http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/student-feedback-folder/staff-student-committee-folder/SSC-May-2012>). Heather Sanderson also reported that the timing of the Moral Sciences Club was changed from an evening time slot to a daytime time slot in order to be more family friendly. Heather Sanderson explained that the submission for the Athena SWAN award would be in April 2018, so she hoped that students would see a positive change in gender policies during their time here. Heather Sanderson also mentioned that the Faculty would be very keen to have students on the Committee that would work towards the Athena SWAN award. Prof Crane explained that while it would be good for the Faculty to gain such an award, he felt that that what was important was the process leading up to it, and changes that would take place within the Faculty. Prof Crane explained that it is important to move away from the notion that Philosophy is a subject taught by men, for men, with women only as bystanders. As an illustration of this, he explained that the Faculty displays photos of both male and female key philosophers, in order to help promote equality.

The meeting finished at 1.55pm

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