

STAFF-STUDENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

A meeting of the Philosophy Staff and Student Committee was held on Tuesday 7th February 2017 at 1.05 p.m. in the Philosophy Faculty Board Room

Present: Clare Dickinson (Principal Secretary), Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Jenni Lecky-Thompson (Librarian), Charlie Evans (Secretarial Assistant), Professor Tim Crane (Faculty Chair), Dr Paulina Sliwa (Undergraduate Co-ordinator), Professor Rae Langton, Ivan Merker, Tara Alia Khalid, Eugene Chua, Anni Raty, Farbod Akhlaghi-Ghaffarokh (Chair), Jonathan Emery, Ege Yumusak.

- 1 Starring of items was invited.
- 2 Apologies were received from Paula Keller.
- 3 The minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2016 were approved. These minutes were previously circulated to all students via e-mail for information.
- 4 Election of Student Representatives
It was noted that following the nominations received by Tuesday 15th November 2016, the following three students had been appointed as Faculty Board Representatives:
Paula Keller, Part IB — Newnham College
Anni Raty, Part II — Trinity Hall
Farbod Akhlaghi-Ghaffarokh, Graduate (MPhil) — Darwin College
It was also noted that the reps can be reached on phil-studentreps@lists.cam.ac.uk

Council representatives – Election of 24 November 2017
It was reported that all students on the electoral roll had also been eligible to stand to be elected as either an undergraduate or a graduate representative to the Council of the School of Arts and Humanities. It was noted that the new representatives for the Council of the School of the Arts and Humanities were:
Undergraduate rep: Sarah Edwards (Gonville & Caius College) – se368
Graduate rep: Syamala Roberts (Jesus College) sar75
- 5 Academic vacancies/Staff news
It was reported that Dr Robert Watt has joined the Faculty as a temporary lecturer (until September 2018), and it was noted that he would be covering for Tom Dougherty, who has an AHRC Leadership Fellowship research grant.
- 6 Degree Classification and Ranking: Consultation Paper
It was noted that the University's Education Committee had requested a response from the Faculty Board by 3 March 2017 in relation to a consultation paper on degree classification and ranking. It was further noted that all students had been sent a short online questionnaire, which included the main questions that affect them. The results were circulated. Both Prof Tim Crane, and Prof Rae Langton thanked students for their input, and their fast response to this survey. Prof Tim Crane stated that the Faculty was generally opposed to the proposals being put forward, and in particular, felt that first year marks should not count towards an overall classification. Anni Raty asked what would happen next in this process, and Prof Crane explained that the answers given to this questionnaire would help the Faculty to put together a response to send back to the University's Education Committee.
- 7 Discussion Groups for Part IB students
It was noted that the following discussion groups would be running from weeks 2-7 of Lent Term 2017:

Metaphysics & epistemology Group 1– Dan Brigham – Mondays 1-2pm, LB12
Metaphysics & epistemology Group 2– Dan Brigham – Mondays 3-4pm, LB11
Ethics – James Hutton - Wednesdays, 4-5pm, LB11
Logic Group 1 – Wes Wrigley – Tuesdays, 1-2pm, LB2
Logic Group 2 – Wes Wrigley – Tuesdays, 3-4pm, LB9
Philosophy of Science – Katie Robertson - Monday, 4-5pm, LB11
Political Philosophy – Maxime LePoutre – Thursday, 1-2pm, LB7
Political Philosophy – Christy McMorrow – Wednesday, 1-2pm, LB12
Greek and Roman Philosophy – Carlo Rossi – Wednesdays 10-11am, LB9

Students were reminded that once they have signed up to a group, they are expected to attend all 6 sessions.

8 Deadline for handing in Extended Essays/Dissertations

Students were reminded that the deadline for submitting extended essays for Part IB and Part II is **Friday 17th March at 12 noon**. It was noted that if students miss this deadline without prior approval from the Chair of Examiners, they would be required to instead sit the written exam for this paper (although students should be aware that Friday 11th March is also the deadline for amendments to exam entries. If a student does not submit their extended essays by the deadline, and then does not ask the College to amend their exam entry to sit the written paper, they would then fail that paper).

Students were further reminded that the deadline for submitting dissertations for Part II is **Friday 5th May at 12 noon**. It was noted that if students miss this deadline without prior approval from the Chair of Examiners, students would then fail that paper, as by May 5th, the final deadline would have passed for amending exam entries.

9 Philosophy Examinations/Marking Criteria in 2017

Students were reminded that the Philosophy Faculty uses a numerical marking scheme. Students were also reminded that details of the current marking guidelines and criteria could be found on the following webpage at:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/ugrads-exam-folder/marking-criteria-pdf>

It was noted that following discussions about Exam Criteria at the SSC Meeting held on November 1st 2016, Directors of Studies had been asked to discuss Marking Criteria at their end of Lent Term 2017 meeting with students. Students were told that they should also have received an email outlining the various exam resources available on the Faculty website.

10 Proposed syllabus changes for Tripos 2017-2018

The Committee noted the syllabus changes listed below, proposed at the Faculty Board meeting held on Monday January 25th 2016, following Caucus meetings:

Part IA

1) Part IA Paper 1 *Metaphysics*

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- God: existence of; the problem of evil; miracles.
- Causation.
- Free will.
- Mind and matter
- Identity: persons and other objects

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

2) Part IA Paper 2 *Ethics and political philosophy*

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Metaethics; fact and value, objectivity and subjectivity

- Normative ethics, consequentialism, deontology, virtue ethics
- Moral psychology, egoism and altruism; empathy; cognitive and affective attitudes
- Political obligation and authority: classical and social contract theory; natural duty and fair play theory; anarchism
- Equality of opportunity: varieties of equality of opportunity; justifications and controversy; positive discrimination

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

3) Part IA Paper 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: formalised languages; object-language and metalanguage; use and mention; validity, implication and consistency.
- Truth-functional logic: truth-functions, tautologies, proof.
- Introduction to first-order 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.
- Names, variables and descriptions; referential and substitutional readings of the quantifiers.
- Necessity, analyticity and the a priori.
- Meaning, intention and conventions.

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

4) Part IA Paper 4 Set texts

The paper will be divided into three sections, one on each of the set authors. Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least twelve set, which must be chosen from at least two sections.

Plato, *Meno* (lectures provided by the Faculty of Classics).

Descartes, *Meditations on first philosophy*.

J. S. Mill, *On Liberty* and *The Subjection of Women*.

No suggested changes for 2017-18.

Other notes: Supervisors have reported that students seem to be enjoying the courses for this paper.

Part IB

1) Part IB Paper 1 *Metaphysics and epistemology*

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Mind-dependence: primary and secondary qualities; idealism
- Metaphysics of modality: modal realism and alternatives
- The nature of knowledge: externalism and internalism; theories of warrant and justification
- Scepticism: the problem of scepticism and responses
- Sources of knowledge: evidence; perception; a priori knowledge; testimony; induction

Suggested changes for 2017-18:

Delete the first bullet point and replace by “Qualities: the primary and secondary distinction; response-dependence; dispositions”

The syllabus would then read as follows:

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- ~~Mind-dependence: primary and secondary qualities; idealism~~ **Qualities: the primary and secondary distinction; response-dependence; dispositions**

- Metaphysics of modality: modal realism and alternatives
- The nature of knowledge: externalism and internalism; theories of warrant and justification
- Scepticism: the problem of scepticism and responses
- Sources of knowledge: evidence; perception; a priori knowledge; testimony; induction

2) Part IB Paper 2 Logic

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Theories of meaning: compositionality of meaning; verificationism.
- Truth: semantic, redundancy, correspondence and coherence theories of truth.
- Logical form: the purposes of formalisation; logical form and theories of meaning.
- Names and descriptions: sense and reference; Russell's theory of descriptions; causal theory of names; identity.
- Variants of classical logic: elements of modal logic; intuitionistic logic.
- Theories: the axiomatic method; informal and formal theories; examples.
- Metatheory of propositional calculus: the method of proof by induction; normal form; expressive adequacy; soundness and completeness.

Suggested changes for 2017-18:

Delete “causal theory of names” and replace by “descriptive versus causal theories of names”.

The syllabus would then read as follows:

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Theories of meaning: compositionality of meaning; verificationism.
- Truth: semantic, redundancy, correspondence and coherence theories of truth.
- Logical form: the purposes of formalisation; logical form and theories of meaning.
- Names and descriptions: sense and reference; Russell's theory of descriptions; **causal theory of names** **descriptive versus causal theory of names**; identity.
- Variants of classical logic: elements of modal logic; intuitionistic logic.
- Theories: the axiomatic method; informal and formal theories; examples.
- Metatheory of propositional calculus: the method of proof by induction; normal form; expressive adequacy; soundness and completeness.

3) Part IB Paper 3 Ethics

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Helping and harming; beneficence I: demands; beneficence II: aggregation; normative powers I: consent, normative powers II: promise; contractualism
- Early modern moral philosophy: natural law; rationalism; sentimentalism
- Moral psychology: moral motivation, virtues, vices, moral learning, practical reasoning

Changes suggested for 2017-18:

Replace “natural law” by “voluntarism”.

Replace “, virtues and vices,” by “; virtues, vices and moral learning;”

The syllabus would then read as follows:

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Helping and harming; beneficence I: demands; beneficence II: aggregation; normative powers I: consent, normative powers II: promise; contractualism
- Early modern moral philosophy: **natural law** **voluntarism**; rationalism; sentimentalism
- Moral psychology: moral motivation, **virtues, vices, moral learning;** **virtues, vices and moral learning;** practical reasoning

4) Part IB Paper 4 Greek and Roman philosophy (Paper 8 of Part IB of the Classical Tripos).

[Examination by three hour set examination.]

No suggested changes for 2017-18.

5) Part IB Paper 5 Early Modern philosophy

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least twelve set.

- Leibniz, *Discourse on Metaphysics* and *Monadology* and *New Essays on Human Understanding*.
- Locke, *Essay Concerning Human Understanding Books I & II*.

- Berkeley, *The Principles of Human Knowledge* and *Three Dialogues between Hylas and Philonous*.
- Hume, *A Treatise of Human Nature*, Book I and Appendix.
Some comparative questions may be set.

No suggested changes for 2017-18.

Other action:

When timetabling the lecture courses in 2017-18, it might be better if Locke is in weeks 1-4, Hume in 5-8. As Leibniz is a dialogue on Locke, it would be good if Leibniz and Locke could be taught around the same time.

6) Part IB Paper 6 Philosophy of science

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Realism, for and against: underdetermination of theory by data; the pessimistic induction; constructive empiricism; structural realism, incommensurability.
- Confirmation: the hypothetico-deductive model; the paradoxes of confirmation; Bayesianism; falsificationism.
- Scientific explanation and laws: what, if anything, distinguishes scientific explanation?; the deductive-nomological model of explanation and its rivals; 'best system' vs anti-reductionist views of laws.
- Concepts of probability: subjective probability; logical probability; frequency interpretation; propensity interpretation.
- Introduction to Philosophy of physics: spacetime and relativity; time and thermodynamics; puzzles of quantum theory.

Action:

Heather Sanderson to liaise with HPS early in Lent Term 2017 to check possible cross-listing of lectures for Part IB and Part II Philosophy of Science papers, and review the syllabus wordings in the light of HPS and Philosophy provision for 2017-18. If any changes are proposed, more detailed proposal(s) will follow in the form of an appendix to these notes.

7) Part IB Paper 7 Political philosophy

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Democracy: justifications of democracy; forms of democracy.
- Equality: egalitarianism; labour, property and theft; the value of equality
- Liberty: classical theories of liberty; contemporary theories of liberty

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

Part II

1) Part II Paper 1 Metaphysics

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Realism and idealism: varieties of realism; conceptual schemes; transcendental arguments
- Particulars and properties: the contrast of particular and universal, and of abstract and concrete, realism about universals and alternatives.
- Causation: causation and agency; realism about causation, for and against; direction of causation
- Time: dynamic versus block conceptions; the direction of time; the existence and persistence of entities in time
- Persons: their persistence and unity; animalism and alternatives

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

2) Part II Paper 2 Philosophy of mind

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Metaphysics of mind: physicalism and alternatives; mental causation
- Epistemology of mind: knowledge of one's own mind; knowledge of other minds
- Consciousness: varieties of consciousness; intentional theories of consciousness; the explanatory gap

- Intentionality and mental representation: the nature of intentionality; intentional objects; reductive theories of content; externalism and internalism
- Mental faculties: intention and the will; emotion; imagination

Changes suggested for 2017-18:

Delete the first bullet point.

The syllabus would then read as follows:

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

• ~~Metaphysics of mind: physicalism and alternatives; mental causation~~

- Epistemology of mind: knowledge of one's own mind; knowledge of other minds
- Consciousness: varieties of consciousness; intentional theories of consciousness; the explanatory gap
- Intentionality and mental representation: the nature of intentionality; intentional objects; reductive theories of content; externalism and internalism
- Mental faculties: intention and the will; emotion; imagination

3) Part II Paper 3 Ethics

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Theories of the good: Sidgwick's method of ethics, goodness and axiology, well-being
- Metaethics: realism; metaphysical foundations of ethics, moral epistemology
- Kant's ethics and Kantian ethics: the categorical imperative, duty and motive, morality and freedom, autonomy
- Topics in moral psychology: trust, ethics of knowing, responsibility

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

4) Part II Paper 4 European philosophy from Kant

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Kant, *Critique of Pure Reason* to the end of the Transcendental Dialectic (A704, B732).
- Hegel, *The Phenomenology of Spirit*, Introduction, Consciousness, Self-consciousness (paragraphs 73-230); *Hegel's Logic: being part of the Encyclopaedia of the Philosophical Sciences*, paragraphs 1-111; *Introduction to Lectures on the Philosophy of History*, as far as (but not including) *The Geographical Basis of World History*; *Introduction to the Philosophy of Right*, paragraphs 1-40, 104-114, 141-157 and 257-259
- Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morality*, *The Birth of Tragedy*, *Beyond Good and Evil*.

No suggested changes for 2017-18.

Other comments: It is hard to do Kant's Dialectic justice in the length of time given to the lecture course.

5) Part II Paper 5 Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages

This paper covers philosophy in the period from c. 400 to c. 1700, in the Latin, Arabic and Hebrew traditions. All texts are studied in translation. For 2015 - 2016, the two set themes will be (a) Universals and (b) Scientific Truth and Revelation. The examination will consist of fifteen questions on the set texts below. Of these, two will be commentary questions, one on an extract from each of the two asterisked texts under Theme 1, the other one on extract from each of the two asterisked texts under Theme 2. Candidates must answer **three** questions, **including one or both** of the commentary questions. They may answer essay questions using texts on which they have commented in a commentary question, so long as any substantial repetition of material is avoided.

Theme 1: Thinking and the Self

- *1. Avicenna: 'On the Soul' from *Al-Najat*; the 'Flying Man' argument in its different versions
2. Averroes: Long Commentary on Aristotle's '*De Anima*', extracts from Book III
- *3. Aquinas, *Summa Theologiae* I, qq. 85-89
4. Gersonides: *Wars of the Lord* Book I (perhaps with some chapters cut to make it more manageable)
5. Descartes, *Meditations* II and VI, with the Objections and Replies to those parts.
6. Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part II and Part V

Theme 2: Scientific Truth and Revelation

1. Averroes *Decisive Treatise*
2. Maimonides *Guide of the Perplexed*, II 15-27
- *3. Boethius of Dacia *On the Eternity of the World*
4. Peter Abelard, *Collationes Collatio II* (The Dialogue between a Philosopher, a Jew and a Christian)
5. Pietro Pomponazzi *On the Immortality of the Soul*
6. Spinoza *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*

Suggested changes proposed for 2017-18: At the Faculty Board meeting on 30 Jan 2017, John Marenbon reported that he would suggest changes to some translations and some of the material for some texts. (The detail about the translations will be picked up in the Reading List revisions for 2017-18.)

Replace “*3. Aquinas, Summa Theologiae I, qq. 85-89” by “*3. Aquinas, Summa Theologiae I, qq. 84-85, 87”

The syllabus would then read as follows:

Part II Paper 5 Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages

This paper covers philosophy in the period from c. 400 to c. 1700, in the Latin, Arabic and Hebrew traditions. All texts are studied in translation. For 2017-18, the two set themes will be (a) Universals and (b) Scientific Truth and Revelation. The examination will consist of fifteen questions on the set texts below. Of these, two will be commentary questions, one on an extract from each of the two asterisked texts under Theme 1, the other one on extract from each of the two asterisked texts under Theme 2. Candidates must answer **three** questions, **including one or both** of the commentary questions. They may answer essay questions using texts on which they have commented in a commentary question, so long as any substantial repetition of material is avoided.

Theme 1: Thinking and the Self

- *1. Avicenna: ‘On the Soul’ from *Al-Najat*; the ‘Flying Man’ argument in its different versions
2. Averroes: Long Commentary on Aristotle’s ‘*De Anima*’, extracts from Book III
- ~~*3. Aquinas, Summa Theologiae I, qq. 85-89~~
- *3. Aquinas, Summa Theologiae I, qq. 84-85, 87**
4. Gersonides: *Wars of the Lord* Book I (perhaps with some chapters cut to make it more manageable)
5. Descartes, *Meditations* II and VI, with the Objections and Replies to those parts.
6. Spinoza, *Ethics*, Part II and Part V

Theme 2: Scientific Truth and Revelation

1. Averroes *Decisive Treatise*
2. Maimonides *Guide of the Perplexed*, II 15-27
- *3. Boethius of Dacia *On the Eternity of the World*
4. Peter Abelard, *Collationes Collatio II* (The Dialogue between a Philosopher, a Jew and a Christian)
5. Pietro Pomponazzi *On the Immortality of the Soul*
6. Spinoza *Tractatus Theologico-Politicus*

6) Part II Paper 6 Philosophy of Science

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Philosophy of Physics I: the metaphysics of space and space-time: absolute and relational theories of space and space-time; geometry and conventionalism.
- Philosophy of Physics II: the interpretation of quantum mechanics; non-locality.
- Philosophy of Biology: biological kinds, the nature of species; biological laws; functional and causal explanation in biology.
- Philosophy of Social Science: social science versus natural science; rational choice theory and social science; social ontology.
- Special topic (2016-17): Philosophy of cognitive science: folk psychology; eliminative materialism; explanation in psychology and neuroscience; embodied and extended cognition.

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

7) Part II Paper 7 Mathematical logic

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- First and second order logic: completeness, compactness, conservativeness, expressive power, and Löwenheim-Skolem theorems.
- First and second order theories: categoricity, non-standard models of arithmetic.
- Set theory: embedding mathematics in set theory, the cumulative iterative hierarchy, elements of cardinal and ordinal arithmetic, the axiom of choice.
- Recursive functions and computability: decidability, axiomatizability, Church's thesis, Gödel's incompleteness theorems, Hilbert's programme.

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

8) Part II Paper 8 Philosophical logic

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

Philosophy of language:

- Understanding and truth-conditions; realism and anti-realism.
- Indeterminacy of meaning; rule-following.

Topics in logic:

- Conditionals.
 - The logic of plurals
- The nature of logic and mathematics:
- Logic: analytic versus empirical.
 - Conventionalism about logic and mathematics.
 - Logicism: traditional and contemporary.
 - Intuitionism: traditional and contemporary.
 - Structuralism and fictionalism.

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

9) Part II Paper 9 Wittgenstein

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- *Tractatus*
- *Philosophical Investigations*
- *On Certainty*
- Study of the following topics is also included: the development throughout Wittgenstein's work of his views on solipsism and the self, and the nature of philosophy.

No changes suggested for 2017-18.

10) Part II Paper 10 Political philosophy

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Global political issues: immigration; international justice, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, global environment
- Community and culture: political liberalism; communitarianism; multiculturalism
- Feminism: economic justice and gender; the ethics of care; gender and difference/intersectionality; pornography; rape; masculinity and femininity.
- Radical political theory; Marxism, Power, Realism vs moralism/ideal and non-ideal theory; moral limits of markets

Changes suggested for 2017-18:

Change “moral limits of markets” to “the limits of markets”.

The syllabus would then read as follows:

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

- Global political issues: immigration; international justice, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, global environment
- Community and culture: political liberalism; communitarianism; multiculturalism
- Feminism: economic justice and gender; the ethics of care; gender and difference/intersectionality; pornography; rape; masculinity and femininity.

- Radical political theory; Marxism, Power, Realism vs moralism/ideal and non-ideal theory; **moral the** limits of markets

11) Part II Paper 11 *Aesthetics*

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

Thematic: Aesthetic experience; realism and anti-realism; imagination and originality; art and morality; the nature of art and ontology of art; understanding, interpretation and criticism; representation, expression.

Set texts: Plato, *Ion*, *Symposium*, and *Republic* (Books II, III, X).

Hume, 'On the Standard of Taste' in *Essays, Moral, Political and Literary*.

Suggested changes for 2017-18:

Replace “expression” by “artistic value”. This is a topic that has been around for about 5 years and is an emerging area.

The syllabus would then read as follows:

Candidates are asked to answer three questions out of at least ten set.

Thematic: Aesthetic experience; realism and anti-realism; imagination and originality; art and morality; the nature of art and ontology of art; understanding, interpretation and criticism; representation, **expression artistic value.**

Set texts: Plato, *Ion*, *Symposium*, and *Republic* (Books II, III, X).

Hume, 'On the Standard of Taste' in *Essays, Moral, Political and Literary*.

It was explained that proposed syllabus changes are always reviewed at Staff-Student Committee to give students the chance to provide feedback, and to make sure they are aware of planned changes. Jonathan Emery questioned why the topic “Metaphysics of Mind” was being removed from the Part II, Paper 2, Philosophy of Mind syllabus, as he said he found it to be an interesting aspect of the paper. However, Prof Tim Crane explained that had been proposed in order to avoid repetition, given that the basics of the topic are covered at IA. Dr Paulina Sliwa also reported that she'd found when lecturing that students were normally already comfortable and familiar with this topic by Part II. She also explained that it is covered under consciousness, mental causation, reduction, etc, so that it doesn't make sense to have 'Metaphysics of Mind' as a separate topic. Prof Crane explained that removing this topic wasn't as big a change as it might appear.

It was explained that all the above suggested changes had been approved in principle by the Faculty Board and that unless the Staff-Student Committee had any strong objections to any of these changes they would be implemented with effect from October 2017. It was also explained that any feedback from students would need to be discussed at the next Faculty Board meeting on 6 March 2017. No objections to these proposed changes were raised at the meeting.

11 Titles for Parts IB and II extended essays

It was reported that following discussions at the SSC Meeting held on November 1st 2016, a list of sample, previously approved extended essay titles, was circulated to Part IB and Part II students, to help them with deciding on a suitable essay title.

12 Lecture Handouts

Dr Paulina Sliwa reported that she was aware that some students were keen for all lecture handouts to be made available online. Dr Sliwa explained that she was aware that there are some students who require handouts ahead of lectures, and that the Faculty was happy to co-operate with this. However, she also explained that there was no general expectation for handouts to be provided online, and in fact there were good reasons why lecturers might choose not to make their handouts available online, in order to avoid plagiarism of their work, and also to encourage students to attend lectures. Dr Sliwa explained that the Faculty's policy was that staff were encouraged

to put their handouts online, but not required to do so. Ivan Merker explained that sometimes there were genuine reasons for students to miss lectures, for example due to illness, and that perhaps staff could be asked to put their handouts on Moodle, which is Raven protected, and would therefore mean that the risk of plagiarism would be reduced. As a more immediate solution, Dr Sliwa and Prof Langton said that they often find that they have handouts left at the end of their lectures, and so it would make sense if a box could be set up at the Faculty office, where such spare handouts from lectures could be collected during each term, so that students could pick up copies of handouts from any missed lectures. The Faculty Office will contact lecturers to arrange this.

13 Exam scripts now available on the Philosophy website

Students were reminded that several sample exam scripts had been made available on the website, anonymised and with the permission of the authors. It was noted that they can be found on the following web page:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/ugrads-exam-folder/sample-answers>

It was reported that it is hoped that further exam scripts would also be made available.

14 Performance of Cohorts

A document comparing the performance of cohorts of students from the Philosophy Faculty, alongside the Department of HPS, the Faculties of HSPS, Classics and Divinity was circulated. It was noted that data showing distribution of classes by gender is included. Students were also reminded that this information is public, and can be accessed at any time via the University's student statistics office: <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/planning/sso/> It was explained that this document had been provided to Faculty Board since 2006, and that it was felt that it would be useful to also share it with the Staff Student Committee, as it gives an ongoing view of how female and male students are doing in the Philosophy Faculty, in relation to similar Faculties. Heather Sanderson thanked Charlie Evans for collating all of this information and explained that it is hoped to be able to provide this information in future in graphical form to make it more easy to interpret. Prof Langton said that she felt that the data provided lots of encouraging news, and showed that both male and female students were doing well. There was also discussion of the fact that it would be useful to provide alongside this data, information about when major changes had taken place to the structure of the course (for example the year that the coursework option was introduced) as this might also help students to interpret the data more easily. Students were also encouraged to let the Faculty know if there was any other similar information that they felt the Faculty should keep track of.

15 Undergraduate Student Survey – Lent 2017

Prof Rae Langton (Chair of the Faculty's Gender Equality Working Group) explained that she had been developing a questionnaire to distribute to students to monitor their feelings on various aspects of the course. Prof Langton distributed copies of the questionnaire which were still confidential at this stage (while it was in development), and asked for feedback from the students present on how any of the questions could be improved, and the best way to survey students. Everyone present felt that for this type of survey, an online format would work best. There was also some discussion of the best way to encourage students to take part. Students gave Prof Langton a lot of suggestions and feedback, and were asked to contact her within the next day with any further feedback, before the questionnaire would be circulated to students. Prof Langton thanked the students present for their help, as well as Alia Khalid, Paula Keller and Anni Raty, and other staff who had already helped with preparing this questionnaire.

- 16 National Student Survey 2016
Students were reminded that the National Student survey launched on January 9 2017. It was reported that all part II students should have been emailed a link to this survey, which will run until April. It was noted that the NSS is an independent survey asking students to rate the quality of their Higher Education experience, and it was further noted that the results of this survey help prospective students, their families and advisors to make study choices. Prof Crane encouraged students to take part in this survey, and it was noted that the results will not be published unless at least 50% of Philosophy students participate.
- 17 Graduate Questionnaires
It was noted that the results of the MPhil questionnaire for Michaelmas Term 2016 are available to current graduate students. Students were asked to email Zoe Walker first if they wish to see them.
- 18 Lecture Evaluation Sheets
It was reported that summary Evaluation sheets for Lectures, Discussion Groups and Logic Classes held in Michaelmas Term 2016 would shortly be available for consultation at the Library Issue Desk. A copy of the general comments made by students during Michaelmas 2016 was also circulated for information.
- 19 Undergraduate Lecture Questionnaires
Students were reminded that questionnaires will be distributed again at the end of all lecture series' in Lent Term 2017, as well as used to assess Logic Classes and Discussion Groups. It was noted that if students would like to give feedback, but miss the session when questionnaires are handed out, questionnaires can also be downloaded from the Faculty website at:
<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/questionnaires/ugrad-questionnaires>
Students were also reminded that there is a box on the questionnaire for comments on other aspects of the Philosophy Course, and students were encouraged to use this box for any comments on lectures they attend that are borrowed from other Faculties.
- 20 Library Committee meeting
Mrs Jenni Lecky-Thompson reported that the date for the meeting this year will be Thursday 16th March at 1.05 pm in the Philosophy Faculty Board Room. She asked students who wish to raise any concerns at this meeting to contact the Faculty Reps.
- 21 Library Questionnaire
It was noted that the Library questionnaire would run until 10 February with a prize draw of £25 Amazon vouchers. It was noted that students could find the questionnaire here: <http://bit.ly/libqu2017>
- 22 Improving the library website
Students were invited to help improve the Philosophy Library website by carrying out a few online tasks taking about 15 minutes. It was noted that the Library staff were keen to get a mix of both undergraduate and graduate students to participate. It was reported that the study would run between 13-23 February. Interested students were told that they should sign up by Wed 8th February using this form:
<https://goo.gl/forms/17S9bQ34kZtt4hiJ2>. It was noted that each participant would get a chocolate bar.
- 23 Use of the Graduate Centre
Students were reminded that the computers in the Graduate Centre are reserved for Graduate students and visiting graduate students. It was also noted that computers

in the Philosophy Faculty Library are available for use by all students and visiting scholars.

24 Philosophy Masterclass

It was reported that for the 7th year, the Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO) is organising Subject Masterclass events for prospective applicants during 2017-18. It was noted that this year the Philosophy/Theology Masterclass was to be held on 4 February 2017.

25 Cambridge Open Days:

It was reported that The Cambridge Open Days for prospective undergraduate students would be on Thursday 6 July and Friday 7 July 2017.

26 NUS Green Impact – Silver Award

It was reported that the Philosophy Green Team now has a student member – Kate Emden (Part II) who is assisting Clare Dickinson and Charlie Evans in working towards a Silver Green Impact Award. It was further noted that the Green Team are planning a Fairtrade coffee morning on Tuesday 28th February, to be held in the Old Library Area, to promote Fairtrade and sustainability, as part of the University's 'Spotlight on Sustainable Food' month:

<http://www.environment.admin.cam.ac.uk/spotlight-sustainable-food>

27 Any other business

There was no further business.

The meeting ended at 1.50pm.