

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

OPEN MEETING OF STAFF, GRADUATES AND UNDERGRADUATES

The Open Meeting of Philosophy Staff and Students was held on Tuesday 22 October 2013 at 1.10 p.m. in the Board Room, Faculty of Philosophy, Sidgwick Site.

Present: Jane Clare (Principal Secretary), Tim Crane (Chair of the Faculty Board, in the Chair), Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Charlie Evans (Secretarial Assistant), Matthew Dougherty, Emily Platten, Liam Livesley, Adam Lalak, Peter Zhokovsky.

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

- 1 Minutes of the Open Meeting of 16 October 2012 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 2013–14, and noted that two new Professors have been appointed - Prof Richard Holton and Prof Rae Langton who both joined the Faculty from MIT, after Dr Fraser MacBride and Dr Serena Olsaretti resigned during the 2012-13 academic year.

It was also noted that three temporary appointments have been made – Dr Seb Nye and Dr Chris Cowie, both previous PhD students of the Faculty, have been appointed until 30 June 2013 to work at 0.5 FTE to replace Dr Lillehammer who has accepted a Chair at Birkbeck, University of London starting on September 1st 2013. Dr Raphaël Ehram (Université Paris 1 Sorbonne) has been appointed to a Temporary Lectureship to provide cover from 1st October 2013 until 30th June 2014, for part of the period when Dr Angela Breitenbach will be on leave during her Leverhulme Research Fellowship.

It was further noted that Dr Craig French has been appointed as a JRF at Trinity Hall starting in October 2013 and that Dr Louise Hanson (University of Oxford) has been appointed to a 5 year College Lectureship in Philosophy for Fitzwilliam and Churchill Colleges, starting in September 2013.

Prof Tim Crane explained that he is the Chair of the Faculty Board for 2013-14, and that Prof Alex Oliver is the Undergraduate Co-ordinator for the Faculty for 2013-14. Prof Crane also reported that Prof Huw Price is Director of Graduate Studies for 2013-14, and that Prof Richard Holton is Director of Graduate Admissions, also for 2013-14. It was further noted that Prof Rae Langton is MPhil Co-ordinator for 2013-14, and that Dr Arif Ahmed is Chair of Examiners for Part IA, Part IB and Part II for 2013-14, although Prof Tim Crane will act as Chair of Examiners in Michaelmas Term 2013 while Dr Ahmed is on leave.

Prof Crane mentioned that there had been some syllabus changes for 2013-14, and that students were consulted on these changes via the Staff-Student Committee. It was noted that the changes to the Syllabus were as follows:

IA Metaphysics

The syllabus now consists of the following five broad areas:

God: existence of; the problem of evil; miracles.

Causation and induction

Free will: concepts of freedom; determinism and fatalism

Mind and matter

Identity: persons and other objects

NB Knowledge and scepticism is no longer on this paper. This paper is now called 'Metaphysics' not 'Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Mind'

IA Logic

'The theory of descriptions' has been removed

'Names, variables and descriptions' has been added

IA Ethics and political philosophy

'Punishment' has been removed

'Political obligation' has been added

IB Metaphysics and Epistemology

The syllabus now consists of the following five broad areas:

Reality: idealism and mind-dependence; primary and secondary qualities

Metaphysics of modality: possible worlds, modal realism

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

NB the philosophy of mind sections have been removed from this paper, and moved to part II philosophy of mind; knowledge and scepticism has been moved from IA to this paper.

IB Logic

'Quantifiers' has been removed

'Metatheory of propositional calculus' has been added

IB Political philosophy

'Power' is now a topic on this paper

II Philosophy of mind

The syllabus now consists of the following five broad areas:

Metaphysics of mind: physicalism and alternatives (dualism, functionalism, anomalous monism, reduction and non-reduction); 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; the mark of the mental; intentional objects; reductive theories of content; externalism and internalism.

Mental faculties: intention and the will; emotion; imagination.

NB The Philosophical Investigations is no longer a set text on this paper

II Metaphysics

The syllabus now consists of the following six broad areas:

Realism and idealism: varieties of realism; conceptual schemes; transcendental arguments.

Particulars, properties, and facts: the contrast of particular and universal, and of abstract and concrete; the constituents and roles of facts; nominalism; conceptualism; realism; tropes.

Causation: causation and agency; realism about causation, for and against; direction of causation.

Persistence and change: objects and events; perdurance and endurance

Time: tensed and tenseless theories; differences between time and space.

Persons: their persistence and unity; their metaphysical status.

NB The Tractatus is no longer a set text on this paper

II Wittgenstein

The rubric: 'Candidates taking this paper are barred from answering asterisked (*) questions in Paper 1, Metaphysics and in Paper 2, Philosophy of mind.' has been removed.

Prof Crane highlighted two consequences of these changes for IB and part II students for 2013-14 only:

- (1) Some students may have worked on knowledge and scepticism as topics in IA. These topics are now on IB Metaphysics and Epistemology, so they will also be able to work on these topics for this paper. However, the topics will be treated in different ways in the lectures, and will be dealt with at a more sophisticated level, so they should not expect that they can simply 'carry over' what they learned in IA to this paper.
- (2) The metaphysics of mind topics which were on IB Metaphysics and Epistemology will now be on part II Philosophy of Mind. Students who worked on these topics last year and decide to take Philosophy of Mind will also be able to work on them in the coming year. However, the topics will be treated in a different way in the lectures, and students should not expect that they can simply rely on having done these topics for IB last year.

It was also noted that from Oct 2013 there are 2 new papers for Part II. These are Philosophy of Science (Paper 6) and Philosophy in the Long Middle Ages (Paper 5).

Prof Crane reminded students that the current syllabus can be found on the Faculty website at:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/IA/ugrad-guide-to-courses>

and that the syllabus is then spelt out further via the reading lists which can be found at:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/IA/IA-outlines-reading-lists>

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/IB/IB-outlines-reading-lists>

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/II/II-outlines-reading-lists>

It was further noted that students need to take the syllabus changes for this year into consideration when looking back over past exam papers, because

the change of syllabus may also affect the topics of the questions that will be asked. In discussing where to find documents on the Faculty website, Prof Crane reported that the website has been re-vamped over the Long vacation and that this work is still ongoing. If students have any problems accessing information, or feel any content is missing, they should contact either the Faculty Office – phil-admin@lists.cam.ac.uk or the IT officer - computer.officer@phil.cam.ac.uk

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. 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 (essentially a departmental 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. Prof Crane also underlined the fact that student voices are listened to at Faculty Board (via the representation of Faculty Reps) and it was noted that for 2013-14, the Part II, Philosophy of Science paper has been re-introduced because of student wishes. 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-students13@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part IA, phil-students12@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part IB and phil-students11@lists.cam.ac.uk for Part II). Students also discussed the possibility of canvassing the opinions of their fellow students via year group pages on Facebook, or by using doodle polls/questionnaires. It was 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.

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 22 October 2013 until the next Open Meeting in the Michaelmas Term 2014:

Representing IA: Liam Livesley (Churchill)

Representing Part IB: Adam Lalak (Churchill)
Emily Platten (Magdalene)
Peter Zhukovsky (Churchill)

Representing Graduates:
MPhil: Matthew Dougherty (Trinity)

As noted above, it was explained that it is usually hoped to have at least two representatives for each year group. It was therefore agreed that the Faculty Office would contact Part IA, 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 2013-14 was circulated. It was noted that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 5th 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 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 26 November 2013** with the closing of nominations a week earlier on **19 November 2013**.

It was further reported that this year, the Faculty will again be using an online voting system for the student elections. It was further noted that further information about this voting system will be circulated to students nearer the time of the elections.

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 also explained that the Council of the Schools is less of a decision making body, and more for reporting. However, if students are 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 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 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. 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 can be found at:

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

The meeting ended at 13.40h.