

STAFF-STUDENT COMMITTEE

Minutes

A meeting of the Philosophy Staff and Student Committee was held on Tuesday 29th April 2014 at 1.05 p.m. in the Philosophy Faculty Board Room

Present: Jane Clare (Principal Secretary), Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Jenni Lecky-Thompson (Librarian), Jackie Goodall (Secretarial Assistant), Prof Alex Oliver (Undergraduate Co-ordinator), Adam Lalak, Peter Zhukovsky (Chairing the meeting), Matthew Van Der Merwe, Shyane Sirwardena

- 1 Starring of items was invited.
- 2 Apologies were received from Professor Huw Price, Professor Tim Crane (Faculty Chair), Prof Rae Langton (MPhil Course Director), Sophia Cruwell, and Emily Platten.
- 3 The minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2014 were approved. These minutes were previously circulated to all students via e-mail for information.
- 4 New appointments
It was noted that Dr Tom Dougherty will be joining us from the University of Sydney in September 2014.
- 5 Tripes Examinations
It was noted that all undergraduates have been emailed a copy of the exam timetable. Students are reminded that the final version of the Philosophy Tripes Exam timetable can be found on page 56 of the document at:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/students/studentregistry/exams/timetable/>

Students are reminded that the Philosophy Faculty now uses a numerical marking scheme.

Details of the current marking guidelines and criteria are now also available on the Faculty website at:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/IA/curr-students/ugrads-exam-folder/ugrads-exams/markig-criteria-new>

Part IA students are reminded that past exam scripts and sample answers are available on the website.
- 6 Deadline for handing in Part II Dissertations
It was noted that students were reminded that the deadline for submitting dissertations for Part II is **Friday 2nd May at 12 noon**. If students miss this deadline without prior approval from the Chair of Examiners, the paper will be failed as the final deadline amending exam entries has already passed. Peter Zhukovsky commented that he would remind the students of this via social media.

- 7 National Student Survey 2014
It was noted that the deadline for completing The National Student Survey is Wednesday 30th April. All part II students have been emailed a link. The NSS is an independent survey asking students to rate the quality of their Higher Education experience, and the results of this survey help prospective students, their families and advisors to make study choices. Students are strongly encouraged to take part in this survey, 2 prizewinners will be drawn from undergraduates that take part.
- 8 Course Outlines
It was noted that Part IA course outlines for the coming academic year are currently being updated and will be available from the Philosophy website by end of May/beginning of June. Part IB and Part II course outlines no longer exist as separate documents, but are combined with the reading lists.
- 9 Reading Lists
It was noted that reading lists will be updated over the summer and will also be posted on the Faculty website.
- 10 Library Annual Report 2012-2013
(*circ.*) The above report was noted.
- 11 Library exam period extended opening hours
The library's extended opening hours were noted: from Tuesday 28th April until Thursday 29th May it will be open 9am to 7pm Monday to Thursday, 9am to 6pm on Friday, and 10am to 5pm on Saturday.
- 12 Faculty Newsletter
It was noted that the 11th issue of the Faculty Newsletter is due to be ready in late May/early June.
- 13 Lecture Questionnaires evaluation sheets
It was noted that evaluation sheets for completed lecture questionnaires for Lent Term 2014 will shortly be available for consultation from the Library issue desk.

If students have any further suggestions on how the questionnaires used to collect feedback on Lectures, Discussion Groups and Logic Classes could be improved, this would be very welcome.
- 14 Part IA Discussion Group readings
The final decisions on changes to the readings will be made after the Easter term caucus meetings.
- 15 Session on taking Experimental Psychology
In previous years, some IB students taking Experimental Psychology have arranged a session to talk to IA students who are considering taking Experimental Psychology as a IB option, to give them a feeling for the paper. If any current IB

students would be interested in doing this (with a session to be organised once exams have finished) they are asked to contact the Faculty Office.

16 Arts & Social Sciences Open Days

The dates of the Cambridge Open Days for prospective undergraduate students were noted as Thursday 3 and Friday 4 July 2014. On each day there will be an information stand located in the Law Faculty Foyer from 10am – 4pm, as well as a course presentation and a tour of the Faculty. If any students are interested in volunteering to help on the stand for one or more two hour slots, they are asked to contact the undergraduate co-ordinator, Professor Alex Oliver.

17 Dates of Faculty Board/Degree Committee meetings for 2014-2015

The following dates for Faculty Board and Degree Committee meetings for the academic year 2014–2015 were noted:

Michaelmas Term 2014

Monday 20th October
Monday 24th November

Lent Term 2015

Monday 26th January
Monday 2nd March

Easter Term 2015

Monday 18th May

Long Vacation

29th June 2015

18 Dates of Final Examination Meetings

The following dates were noted:

Part IA – Friday 13th June 2014
Part II – Wednesday 18th June 2014
Part IB – Friday 20th June 2014

Breakdown of marks will be sent to Directors of Studies and Tutorial Offices shortly after the final exam meeting. Directors of Studies will inform students of their marks for individual papers. If a student is unable to contact their Director of Studies to receive their marks, they should contact the Tutorial Office of their College. The Faculty Office is unable to disclose marks to individual students.

19 Faculty of Classics

It was noted that the Faculty of Classics Paper (God and Anti-god) has been changed to Reason and Reasoning.

20 Any other business

Mrs Sanderson told the meeting that the Faculty intends to bid for a 2 year postdoctoral fellowship in order to continue teaching Nietzsche (and possibly Hegel) as part of Part II, Paper 4 European Philosophy from Kant. This would cover teaching for 2014-15 at the very least.

Ms Siriwardena asked if graduate students currently supervising for Part II, Paper 4 would need to be able to cover Nietzsche, Professor Oliver said potential supervisors for 2014-15 should indicate which parts of the paper they felt they could supervise, as usual.

Professor Oliver then commented that a further syllabus change would be made for 2014-15: one of the Part IA, Paper 4 Set Texts would be changed from Hume's *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion* to Descartes' *Meditations on first*

philosophy. The student reps were advised that this would be discussed at the next Faculty Board meeting on Monday 19th May.

Mrs Sanderson asked the meeting how students felt about the electronic Timetable facility. Peter Zhukovsky mentioned that he found it very useful and easy to use and that it works well with Google calendar and is easy to access on a phone or tablet. Mrs Sanderson mentioned that the Faculty would carry out a survey at a later date on this.

Library Survey

Mrs Lecky-Thompson told the meeting that the Library is running a survey on how students feel about the databases PhilPapers and Philosopher's Index as PhilPapers will shortly stop being free. The survey runs until 9th May and takes approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Adam Lalak asked if it was possible that students could receive some written feedback on essays after the exams. Professor Oliver explained that it was not Faculty policy to give feedback and that it would be logistically very difficult to do so. Mrs Sanderson said the request would go to the next Faculty Board meeting for a decision. Matthew van der Merwe then asked that if written feedback were not possible, perhaps a breakdown of each paper's mark could be considered. Mrs Sanderson said this request would also go to Faculty Board.