

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

STAFF-STUDENT COMMITTEE MINUTES

A Meeting of Philosophy Staff and Students was held on Tuesday 4th November 2014 at 1.05 p.m. in the Philosophy Faculty Board Room, Sidgwick Site.

Present: Jane Clare (Principal Secretary), Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Jenni Lecky-Thompson (Librarian), Professor Richard Holton (Faculty Chair), Dr Tim Button (Undergraduate Co-ordinator), Sophia Cruwell, Sheanna Patelmaster, Eugene Chua, Jasmine Walter, Tessa Standen, Chris Lynch, Melissa Botes, Matthew van der Merwe, Shyane Siriwardena

- 1 Starring of items was invited.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Dr Angela Breitenbach, MPhil course director.
- 3 The minutes of the open meeting held on 21st October 2014 were approved. These minutes were previously circulated to all students via e-mail for information.
- 4 Tessa Standen volunteered to chair the meeting.

5 Staffing Matters

It was noted that the following new teaching appointments have been made:

Dr Tom Dougherty	Lecturer
Dr Chris Cowie	Teaching Associate
Dr Michael Gabbay	Research Fellow

Faculty Visitors

Professors Steve Yablo and Sally Haslanger, MIT, will be the Faculty visitors for 2014 – 2015, and will be arriving in early June 2015.

6 Old Library

New students were reminded that the Old Library is a common area where undergraduate students can meet informally, have coffee/tea and discuss philosophy. Due to the nature of the location it was emphasised that discussions should be kept fairly quiet because of the various offices adjacent to it.

7 Election of Student Representatives:

Faculty Board in class (f)

It was noted that the elections for student representatives on the Philosophy Faculty Board will be held on **Tuesday 25th November 2014** with the closing of nominations a week earlier on **18th November 2014**.

It was noted that the Faculty will continue to use an online voting system for the student elections. More details about this voting system will be sent to students in due course.

Council representatives

It was noted that all students on the electoral roll will also have the chance to be elected to serve on Councils of the Schools. These elections will use the on-line ballot and will be managed by the Education Section. Students were informed that the date of these elections 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 Representatives.

Students were also informed that CUSU and the Education Section will contact them directly about this.

Matthew van der Merwe told the meeting that there was some confusion amongst students about the difference between student representatives on the Faculty Board and Staff-Student representatives. It was agreed that student reps on the Staff-Student Committee shall henceforth be called 'year delegates'.

8 Faculty of Philosophy – Casimir Lewy Library Committee

It was noted that the date of the meeting will be announced in due course.

Elections for Student Representatives take place in November, as above. It was reported that the Library Committee meeting takes place in the Lent Term to ensure that newly elected Faculty Board Representatives can be present at that meeting.

The Library Committee consists of the following members:

The Librarian

The Chair of the Faculty

The Secretary of the Faculty

The Director of Graduate Studies

The Undergraduate Co-ordinator

The Chair of the Staff Student Committee

The two Undergraduate Representatives on the Faculty Board

The Graduate Representative on the Faculty Board

9 Email lists

It was noted that the Faculty has two email lists which are used for publicising events relating to Philosophy – phil-events, which is for Philosophical events/groups based in Cambridge, and phil-bulletin, which is for philosophical events taking place further afield. Students were informed that they can find more information on these lists, and subscribe to them by visiting <https://lists.cam.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo> and entering the name of the relevant list.

10 Extended Essays in Part IB/Extended Essays and Dissertations in Part II

It was noted that examples of good work are available for perusal from the library issue desk. There are also several examples on the faculty website under 'Undergraduate Exams'.

Students were reminded that the deadline for application is **21st November 2014**.

It was noted that all titles have to be approved by the Chair of Examiners before students leave for the Christmas break.

Students were also asked to note that any student who does not submit their Extended Essay on time, will have no option but to sit the corresponding exam paper. Any student who does not submit their dissertation on time will effectively fail the paper, as the deadline for submitting dissertations is after the final deadline for amending exam entries.

Dr Button explained the procedure for changing titles and emphasised the importance of submitting an essay that matches the title.

One of the students mentioned that she had received no information on the option to submit extended essays and dissertations from her director of studies. Dr Button said he would speak to that specific DoS to make sure that they made their students aware in the future.

A student asked if it would be possible to have a general meeting for 2nd and 3rd years at the beginning of Michaelmas term in order to discuss extended essays and dissertations. Prof Holton agreed and it was decided to hold it on the Tuesday or Wednesday between the start of Michaelmas full term and lecturing term.

11 Examiners' reports

Students were informed that the exam reports for 2014, including external reports, will be posted up on the Faculty website later this term, under "Examiner reports":

12 Discussion Groups for Part IB students:

It was noted that the Faculty is in the process of arranging discussion groups for Part IB for the Lent Term 2015. The topics and leaders of these groups will be:

Logic: Lucy Campbell

Metaphysics & Epistemology: Dan Brigham

Ethics: Nora Heinzelmann

Early Modern Philosophy: Alexis Papazoglou

Greek & Roman Philosophy: Carlo Rossi

Philosophy of Science: Georgie Statham

Political Philosophy: Paul Raekstad

Timings of the groups will be confirmed shortly. Students may sign up for as many groups as they wish, but need to bear in mind the additional work involved. Once a student has signed up, it is expected that s/he will attend all the sessions.

13 Lecture questionnaires

Students were encouraged to complete the questionnaires which will be distributed in final lectures (in weeks 4, 6 or 8 as appropriate) in Michaelmas Term. Students were also encouraged to complete questionnaires circulated in Discussion Groups and Logic Classes. Students were informed that if they miss the final lecture, or do not get the opportunity to complete a questionnaire in their lecture, it is possible to download questionnaires from the Faculty website:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/questionnaires/ugrad-questionnaires>

Mrs Sanderson told the meeting that the Faculty may soon be trialling on-line evaluations. Further information would be emailed to students nearer the time.

14 Lecture Questionnaires evaluation sheets

Students were reminded that evaluation sheets for completed lecture questionnaires are available for consultation from the Library issue desk.

15 Social Committee for undergraduates

It was noted that four Part IA students have agreed to set up a Social Committee to run social events for undergraduates. The Faculty has agreed to make a small yearly financial contribution. The Committee will comprise: Alexander Murphy, Sheanna Patelmaster, Eugene Chua and Theo St-John Stevens.

16 Cambridge Open Days for prospective undergraduates:

Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July 2014

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Arts Open Day, particularly Prof Alex Oliver and Mrs Jackie Goodall for the organisation and the smooth running of the events for these two days.

Next year's Open Days will be on 2nd and 3rd July 2015.

Shyane Siriwardena mentioned that some of the graduate students who had helped out on the Open Days were still awaiting payment in Amazon vouchers. Mrs Sanderson reassured her that the payments would be made in the next couple of days.

17 Sutton Trust Summer Schools

It was reported that the Faculty was jointly involved in running the summer school with the Faculty of Divinity which took place from 21st – 25th July 2014.

Warm thanks to the graduate students who took part and gave the following talks:
Shyane Siriwardena "Metaphysics: A World of Universals"
Kyle Mitchell "The Nature of Truth"
Claire Benn "Formal Logic"
Georgie Statham "The Mind-Body Problem"

The Sutton Trust provided for each student to be paid £50.

The Board agreed the Chair's proposal for a similar arrangement with Divinity for 2015.

18 Introductory Day, 8th October 2014

The Introductory Day for all new Philosophy students took place on Wednesday 8th October 2014. Thanks to Liam Livesley (and Peter Zhukovsky, who is now at Psychology) for giving a very informative talk on what is involved in being a student rep. It is hoped that a similar talk will be given by a student rep at the next Introductory Day in October 2015.

19 Amoral Sciences Club

Students were informed that the contact name and President for the ASC is: Jack Wearing, jw811@cam.ac.uk.
More information can be found at: <http://www.amoralsciences.org/>

20 Research Tools Training

Students were reminded that research tools training would take place on 17th November 2014 in the Philosophy Board Room.

21 Scheduling of Lectures

The IA student reps told the meeting that they had received many complaints about the scheduling of back to back lectures on the Sidgwick site and Mill Lane. Students were regularly missing 5-10 minutes of lectures as they walked between sites, lectures were starting late, and learning time was being lost. Mrs Sanderson explained that the problems were due to a different process of room bookings that had been implemented by the Student Registry. Other departments and faculties were also having problems. She encouraged the students to raise a petition, containing comments, in order that the Faculty could send it to the Student Registry to back up a letter that the Faculty intended to send.

22 IB – HPS borrowed lectures

Sophia Cruwell asked exactly how the HPS lectures for the Part IB, Philosophy of Science paper fit in with the reading lists and syllabus. It was explained that as an HPS course it would not be quite as philosophy-focused as those produced by our Faculty and would perhaps not precisely fit in with the syllabus. Mrs Sanderson said that precise details of the HPS courses are on their website and students should look through them to get the gist.

23 Part II Ethics paper

Chris Lynch told the meeting that Part II students had made representations to him about the Ethics paper as follows:

1. There are far too many topics than can be feasibly covered (even during supervisions AND vacation/revision time).
2. It is unclear over what topics might or might not come up in the exam.
3. Lots of topics on the reading lists do not seem to map on precisely to lectures given by the Faculty.

Shyane Siriwardena told the meeting that she had discussed these issues with Dr Chris Cowie, one of the ethics lecturers, and he was aware of the problems and was working on them. It was explained that not all topics would necessarily be lectured on. Prof Holton suggested that a mock exam paper be put on the web, this was agreed to be a good idea.

It was also suggested that Dr Tom Dougherty be asked to change the name of his lecture course 'Sidgwick's Methods of Ethics', because Sidgwick is not mentioned in the syllabus. Professor Holton to talk to Dr Dougherty about this.

24 Any other business

Two Part IB students asked if it would be possible to borrow a paper from the English Faculty: 'English Moralists'. They believed that there were several other students who would be interested in taking the paper, both 2nd and 3rd years. Mrs Clare indicated that there could be timetabling issues if the option to take another paper were introduced. Dr Button said he would look at the paper and report back to the next meeting.