

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
STUDENT-STAFF COMMITTEE

Minutes

for the meeting on 7th November 2022, 12.05 p.m. in the Faculty Boardroom.
Professor Alexander Bird chaired the meeting.

STRICTLY IN PERSON

- 1 * *Circs*
 Starring of items was invited. Point 13 was added.
- 2 Apologies for absence.
 Michael Potter sent apologies.
- 3 * The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2022 were approved.
 These minutes were previously circulated to all students via e-mail
 for information.
- 4 Academic Administrative responsibilities:

 The following academics are now overseeing the following areas:

 Chair of Faculty Board: Alexander Bird
 Undergraduate Co-ordinator: Neil Dewar
 Chair of Examiners (Tripos): Arif Ahmed
 MPhil Course Director: Sarah Fine
 Subject Convenor (Undergraduate Admissions): Richard
 Holton
 Director of Postgraduate Admissions: Alex Oliver
 Director of Postgraduate Studies: Michael Potter
- 5 Staff news:

 The following new staff were welcomed to the Faculty:
 Dr Sophie Dandelet, Assistant Professor and Sidgwick Lecturer.
 Dr Will Hornett, Teaching Associate.
 Mr Jack Wearing, Teaching Associate.
 Dr Nikhil Krishnan, Assistant Professor.
- Library Staff:
 Laura Pickard (she/her), working weekday mornings.
 Finn Longman (they/them), working weekday afternoons.

6 Teaching and Support Arrangements 2022-23

The current protocols for students are available on the website here:

<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/undergraduate-teaching-and-support-arrangements-including-exam-updates>

This includes the Guide to Courses and exams information for 22/23.

7 * Discussion on Future Exams Format

Digital Assessment Survey

A copy of the draft response and email information was circulated. Discussion was invited at SSC before this is considered at Faculty Board on 21st November. The Faculty's preference going forward into the future would be online in-person exams. If students have any questions they should contact their student representatives. It was noted that on the exam format questionnaire, the answer to Q7 should be changed to YES for the following reason: We want a means by which each examiner for a paper can enter their mark for each script directly into the spreadsheet, without being able to see what mark the other examiner has entered. That would make the process quicker and simpler. It would also eliminate one of the ways in which errors of transcription can occur.

Q12 should be updated to YES to reflect that Logic Classes count as formative assessments but are not included in the overall classification mark. Heather Sanderson to include the following wording: In the Logic Classes (held fortnightly), Part IA students receive formative assessment each class on problem sets that they have completed in advance of the class.

8 Election of Student Representatives

From October 2020, there have been changes to student representation, and elections for student representatives are now run centrally.

Nominations for the roles above opened on 31st October 2022 and close on 8th November 2022. Elections will take place across 11th–17th November 2022.

There will be 3 Student Subject Representatives for Philosophy (2 Undergraduate and 1 Postgraduate), and also 2 School Council representatives for Arts & Humanities (1 Undergraduate and 1 Postgraduate). See:

<https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/student-elections>

9 Lecture/Logic Class/Seminar (Discussion) Group questionnaires

Students have been encouraged to complete the [online questionnaires](#). Lecturers have been asked to remind students, where possible, in their last lecture to fill in a feedback questionnaire for the lecture course. A QR code is also available to scan.

A link to the form and QR code has been emailed to students.

10 Discussion Groups for Part IB students:

The Faculty is in the process of arranging discussion groups for Part IB for Lent Term. Groups, leaders and timings will be confirmed in due course. Once a student has signed up, it is expected that they will attend all the relevant sessions.

11 Library Updates

The Library invites all Philosophy students, staff and visitors to join them for a Philosotea break every Friday this term at 11am in the Faculty Common Room (The Old Library). Come along to get to know each other over a free hot cuppa and treats.

12 Green Impact

The Faculty has signed up to [Green Impact](#), the University's environmental accreditation scheme, which supports and encourages departments and colleges across the University in reducing their environmental impacts. We have asked interested students to join our Green Impact Team.

13 * Any other business

The student representative raised the issue that students are uncomfortable about a new member of staff in light of a previous publication and that a petition will be forthcoming. The question was put as to how staff are assessed prior to employment. The Chair emphasized that all groups are welcome in the Faculty, and that all members of the Faculty are committed to this. The Chair then outlined the 3 separate stages of the selection process for fellowships: Faculty, University, and External Funder, each of which has its own processes, including looking at references, CVs and previous publications most relevant for the fellowship research project. It was emphasized that the work of concern is not connected to the current research project. Due to legal, HR and other issues, a formal response will be forthcoming.

Date of next meetings

Proposed SSC meetings for the next academic year are as follows:

Lent Term 2023 : Monday 20th February 2023

Easter Term 2023: Monday 8th May 2023

Student Key Deadlines.

18th of November 2022

12.00 – UG extended Essay and Dissertation Submission Deadline

Student evaluation form QR code:

