

FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY STUDENT-STAFF COMMITTEE

Minutes

for the online meeting on 3 November 2020, 1.05 pm by Zoom.

Present: Professor Rae Langton (Chair of Faculty), Dr John Filling (Undergraduate Coordinator), Dr Jessie Munton (Undergraduate Coordinator), Heather Sanderson (Faculty Administrator), Marie-France Moss (IT Officer), Jo Harcus (Librarian) Clare Dickinson (Principal Secretary) Charlie Evans (Graduate Secretary), Alex Fisher (PhD student) Benjamin Marschall (Graduate Student Rep), Robin Wisse (PhD student), Johannes Wagner (PhD student), Arun Prabhakar (Undergraduate Student Rep), Patrick Pan (Undergraduate), Joseph Ashe (Undergraduate), Anna Simpson (Administrative Assistant).

- 1 Joe Ashe chaired the meeting.
- 2 Starring of items was invited.
- 3 Apologies for absence were received from Dr Nikhil Krishnan.
- 4 The minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2020 were approved. These minutes were previously circulated to all students via email for information.

5 Matters arising from the minutes not raised elsewhere on the agenda

Item 11: Discussion Group readings and an undergraduate led reading group

The proposed changes for discussion group readings were initially considered at the ethics, politics and aesthetics caucus meeting on 11 May 2020, but further discussion was needed during 2020-21 before making possible changes for a future year. Jack Walker and Amanda Astley have set up an undergraduate led reading group for IA students starting November 2020.

6 Student-Staff Committee

a) A short outline of the way the Student-Staff Committee functions was circulated **for information**, and **any questions**.

b) Year Delegates on the Student-Staff Committee

Volunteers were sought from all Parts of the Tripos and the MPhil and PhD programmes to be a representative for their year group at Staff-Student Committee, a different function from the elected Faculty Board Representatives. There were no volunteers. In practice not all students would wish to attend all meetings but it was hoped/expected that at least two delegates from each year would regularly attend.

Any students who would be willing to volunteer as a year delegate should contact phil-admin@cam.ac.uk.

7 Election of Student Representatives

It was noted that the elections for student representatives on the Philosophy Faculty Board would be held on **Tuesday 17 November 2020** with the closing of nominations a week earlier on **10 November 2020**. Results would be announced centrally on **Friday 20 November**.

Students could find more information about being a student rep at:

<https://www.cambridgesu.co.uk/yourvoice/academicreps/>

This year elections would be administered centrally by the Cambridge Student Union. Further details on the elections could be found at:

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

Council representatives

It was noted that all students on the electoral roll would also have the chance to be elected to serve on Councils of the Schools. These elections would take place across 16-19 November 2020.

8 Teaching Arrangements 2020-21

It was noted that the Faculty was reviewing the teaching and learning arrangements that had been introduced in light of the pandemic. Feedback had already been received from student reps, and proposed revisions to teaching arrangements would be discussed. John Filling reported on the latest changes notably that pre-recorded teaching material would be made available *throughout the academic year*. Recordings of live sessions are at the session leader's discretion. Students with SSDs or with extenuating circumstances would be always be provided with content as appropriate. It was also noted that students may have other extenuating circumstances e.g. loss of internet for prolonged periods of time. Further student feedback was invited on these changes or any other online teaching arrangements.

Student feedback welcomed the recorded material extension and cautioned against possible student procrastination due to the longer availability. JF explained that the extension decision would be reviewed in time but if any future change meant a reduction to the extension, availability would not be for less than a term.

9 Lecture handouts

It was explained that some handouts would be made available to students outside of lectures. These could be found on Moodle for the relevant paper or the lecturer's own websites. Access to these Moodle pages is be restricted to students taking Philosophy papers and is administered by Faculty Office staff.

10 Lecture questionnaires

Students were encouraged to complete the questionnaires, which it was explained would be online this year. Lecturers would be asked to remind students, where possible, in their last lecture to fill in a feedback questionnaire for the lecture course. Students would also be encouraged to complete questionnaires for Discussion Groups and Logic Classes.

The deadline for MT20 feedback questionnaires would be midnight on Monday 7th December 2020.

The weblinks to access the online questionnaires could be found here:

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

More information would follow this week. Students will also be encouraged to comment on new arrangements and format of teaching.

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

11 Specimen question paper for Part II 2020-21

Students were reminded that a sample exam paper would be available shortly on the webpage below for:

Paper 9 Wittgenstein and his Successors

<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/IB/curr-students/ugrads-exam-folder/ugrads-exams>

12 Faculty of Philosophy – Casimir Lewy Library Committee:

It was noted that the Library Committee meeting would take place in Lent Term to ensure that newly elected Faculty Board Representatives could be present at that meeting.

It was noted that the Library Committee consists of the following members:

Librarian – Jo Marcus

Chair of the Faculty – Rae Langton

Faculty Administrator – Heather Sanderson

Director of Graduate Studies – Richard Holton

Undergraduate Co-ordinator – Jessie Munton

2 Undergraduate Representatives on the Faculty Board – *tbc after election*

Graduate Representative on the Faculty Board – *tbc after election*

13 Email lists

It was noted that the Faculty has two email lists which are used for publicising events/information relevant to philosophy:

Phil-events is for Philosophical events/groups based in Cambridge, and Phil-bulletin is for information of broader interest.

Sometimes information would be posted to both lists. Students could 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.

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

Students were reminded that the deadline for submitting extended essay and dissertation titles was **12:00 noon on Friday 20 November 2020**.

All titles have to be approved by the Chair of Examiners before the end of Michaelmas Term, on 4 December 2020.

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

Students were reminded that a selection of samples of good work of Part IB and Part II extended essays and dissertations are available to view from the Philosophy library issue desk. Examples could also be viewed on the webpage below:

<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/ugrads-exam-folder/ext-essays-diss>

15 Sample Exam Answers

Students were reminded that there are now several examples of real answers to Tripos Exam Questions with notes about the expected class, and model answers to a Formal Methods paper on the webpage below:

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

16 Examiners' reports for 2020

It was noted that no individual examiners' reports were produced for the 2020 assessments. The External Examiner's report for Part II for 2020, would be available shortly on the Faculty website under "Examiner reports":

<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/exam-reports>

A raven login would be required to access the report.

17 Discussion Groups for Part IB students:

It was noted that the Faculty was in the process of arranging discussion groups for Part IB for the Lent Term (weeks 2-7). The groups and leaders had been confirmed and timings would follow in due course.

Knowledge, Language and the World – Mr A. Fisher
 History of Analytic Philosophy – Dr J. Zerilli
 Ethics – Mr C. Benzenberg
 Early Modern Philosophy – Dr J. Zerilli
 Epistemology & Metaphysics of Science – Mr O. Westerblad
 Political Philosophy – Ms P. Keller
 Greek and Roman – Mr A. Santoro

Students would be emailed with details and 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.

*18 Harrassment prevention and complaints

It was noted that the Faculty has signed up to the BPA/SWIP Good Practice Scheme, and also follows the University's procedures.

At the Faculty Board meeting on 20 May 2020, the Faculty Board agreed on specific action points which we are in the process of implementing. One of these action points is reviewing our documentation and invitations to bought-in lecturers to make sure that everyone involved in teaching has University training in equality and diversity matters and that they know about the University's sexual harrassment policy.

For academic staff administrative roles (including Equality Working Group/Athena SWAN Academic Lead; Gender Champion; Racial & Sexual Harrassment Officer etc) see <https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/people/Admin-roles/view>

The Breaking the Silence webpage can be found here:

<https://www.breakingthesilence.cam.ac.uk/breaking-silence-university-statement>

Feedback from students was welcomed. Robin Wisse, PhD student, sought further information on the University's procedures and suggested increasing awareness within the Faculty each year. There was support for this proposal. Jessie Munton (Equality Working Group Lead) agreed to meet with Robin Wisse to discuss best practice.

19 Social Committee for undergraduates

It was noted that normally the Faculty could provide some funding for social events for undergraduates. However, this year would depend on how the pandemic situation develops; if any students were interested in setting up a social committee, they should contact Heather Sanderson (email hs313@cam.ac.uk).

20 Postgraduate Social Events

It was noted that normally the Faculty could also provide some funding for social events for graduates, e.g. Christmas lunch and the postgrad rep usually gets involved with this. However, this year would depend on how the pandemic situation develops; if any other students were interested in setting up a social committee, they should contact Heather Sanderson (email hs313@cam.ac.uk).

21 University Open Days for prospective students

- a) The virtual Postgraduate Open Days would be held on 2 - 15 November 2020.
- b) Cambridge Open Days for prospective undergraduates would be held on Thursday 1 & Friday 2 July 2021.

Thanks were extended to everyone who had helped with recent Open Days. Student volunteers would be sought again, prior to each new Open Day event.

22 Introductory Day for new students

The Introductory Day for all new Philosophy students took place on Wednesday 7 October 2020. The committee thanked Arun Prabhakar for talking about being a student rep. It is hoped that a student rep would also give a similar talk at the Introductory Day next year in October 2021.

23 Amoral Sciences, Immoral Sciences and Moral Sciences Clubs etc

It was noted that details of the Amoral Sciences Club, Immoral Club, Moral Sciences Club, and other discussion groups and seminars could be found here: <http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/seminars-phil/seminars-discussions>

24 Any other business.

- Heather Sanderson mentioned that the Faculty had written some guidelines for discussions, available here: <https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/philosophy-faculty-guidelines-for-discussion.pdf/view>
- A PhD student enquired about the status of the re-opening of the graduate centre. Heather Sanderson explained that more clarification would be required from the University before wider access to the building would be allowed.

Jo Harcus noted that the current arrangements for the library would likely continue to the end of term. Students reported good accessibility to online materials and helpful responses to queries from the library team. Jo would be emailing out further information to students including setting up 1:1 meetings with herself for any students in need of extra help and also the re-start of Philosotea. Rae Langton and the committee extended thanks to Jo Harcus for her hard work in exceptional circumstances.

- The Committee thanked the current Student Reps for their input over the past year.