

STUDENT-STAFF COMMITTEE

Minutes

for the meeting on Tuesday 11th May 2021, 1.05 p.m. by Zoom

Present: Professor Rae Langton (Chair of Faculty), Professor Arif Ahmed (Chair of Examiners), Dr Jessie Munton (Undergraduate Coordinator), Professor Richard Holton (Director of Postgraduate Studies), Dr Paulina Sliwa (MPhil Course director), Heather Sanderson (Faculty Administrator), Clare Dickinson (Principal Secretary) Charlie Evans (Graduate Secretary), Karolina Filova (Undergraduate Student Rep), Nadia Ben Hassine (Graduate Student Rep), Johannes Wagner (PhD student), Anna Simpson (Administrative Assistant).

This meeting was an opportunity for students to raise questions, provide feedback, and feel supported, during the global pandemic with remote study and working.

This meeting was **not** be audio/video recorded, as it was designed to be a live event, unfolding in real time, where discussion could be open, relaxed, engaged, and interactive.

1. Rae Langton chaired the meeting.
2. Starring of items was invited.
3. Apologies for absence were received from Jo Harcus (Librarian).
4. The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2021 were approved. These minutes were previously circulated to all students via e-mail for information.
5. New appointments/Staff news
A warm welcome was extended to Dr Sarah Fine and Dr Neil Dewar who will both be taking up permanent teaching posts in the Faculty in September 2021.
- * 6. Teaching and Support Arrangements 2020-21
The updated guidance document for undergraduate students could be found on the following page:
<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/teaching-2020-21>
Further information for postgraduates could be found here:
<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/curr-students/postgraduates>

Questions and comments were invited.

Jessie Munton raised the idea of carrying out a more structured survey of online teaching. There was support for this proposal and Jessie was asked to think of 3 or 4 relevant questions to add to an existing survey due for circulation.

- *7. Tripes Examinations – Revised Assessment Arrangements Easter Term 2021

All undergraduates had been emailed details about the arrangements for the Philosophy Tripos exams (email from cll30@cam.ac.uk on 12 March 2021 at 08.59, additional email on 4 May 2021 at 16.33).

The University had produced a guide to examinations for students available on the following webpage:

https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/files/student_guide_for_exams_issued_april_2021.pdf

The Philosophy Faculty marking criteria could be found on pages 9-10 of the Philosophy Guidelines for Examiners and Assessors for Tripos Examinations 2021 here:

https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/system/files/documents/guide_for_examiners_2021_revised_1_march2021_cd.pdf

Questions and comments were invited.

Arif Ahmed highlighted that Part IA, Paper 3 (Meaning) exam had been moved forward in response to student feedback. This had been updated on the full exam timetable which could be found here:

https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/files/cs_main_et21.pdf

It was reported that Arif Ahmed would run a Q&A session on the exams on 25th May from 12-3pm. 12-1pm would be the suggested session for IA students, 1-2pm for IB students and 2-3pm for Part II students however any student could attend any session.

8. Expected Dates for Release of Part IB and Part II Marks

Part IB – Thursday 15 July 2021

Part II – Friday 25 June 2021

A breakdown of marks would be sent to Directors of Studies and Senior Tutors beforehand. Directors of Studies would inform students of their marks for individual papers. If a student was unable to contact their Director of Studies to receive their marks, they should contact the Tutorial Office of their College. The Faculty Office would be unable to disclose marks to individual students.

*9. Library Resources

Jo Harcus, Librarian provided an update as below:

Due to physical and on-site staffing constraints, the Philosophy Library remains closed to visitors but Jo and the team would still be available to help access the resources needed for your learning, research and teaching. Please email phillib@hermes.cam.ac.uk or call +44 (0) 1223 762939 if there is absolutely anything you need and we'll do our very best to help. Philosophy Library books can be requested using our Click and Collect service. Further details of this and other services available across Cambridge University Libraries, including bookable study space and Scan and Deliver options, can be found on our website at <https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/library>. We'll regularly review our services in line with evolving University and Government guidance and will keep you informed of any changes via email and our website. If you have any questions, feedback or concerns at any time please email us or use our online feedback wall at https://padlet.com/phillib/Feedback_Wall if you'd prefer to contact us anonymously.

10. Well-being and financial support
Wellbeing and welfare information for all students during the Coronavirus outbreak could be found here:
<https://www.studentwellbeing.admin.cam.ac.uk/coronavirus>
Information for students in need of financial support due to the Coronavirus outbreak could be found here <https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/financial-hardship-support-access-funds>
The Wellbeing tab on the LibGuide includes information about the Wellbeing book collection and links to other sources of information and support. These could be requested for click and collect informally and in confidence by emailing jmh225@cam.ac.uk. [An online collection of wellbeing ebooks](#) could also be accessed.

- *11. RFB/Graduate Centre access
It was reported that the RFB including the Philosophy Graduate Centre is still currently closed due to the national lockdown. Staff and students would be updated on re-opening when more information is available. Access arrangements will likely be limited again due to COVID safety measures. Heather Sanderson acknowledged that postgraduates would be particularly keen to return to the Graduate Centre and would be the priority for access.

12. Arts & Social Sciences Open Days
It was reported that the Cambridge Open Days for prospective undergraduate students would take place virtually in July. Pre-recorded content would be available on 5-18 July with live elements on 8/9 July.

Attendees would be directed to download the Open Days app to view online general and subject presentations. The app would also provide information about the University and Colleges. Philosophy would look to replicate last year, contributing a course presentation and live webinar.

Dates of Open Days in September would follow.

13. Proposed syllabus changes for Tripos 2021-22
(*circ.*) Changes proposed by Student Staff Committee on 9 Feb 2021 were approved by Faculty Board by circulation.

The latest Guide to Courses for 2021-22 showing all of the approved changes was circulated for information.

14. Reading Lists
Faculty Caucus meetings would be reviewing Combined Course Outlines and Reading lists this term. These would be updated over the Summer in readiness for the new academic year and links will also be posted on the Faculty website.

15. Lecture Questionnaires evaluation sheets
Evaluation sheets for completed lecture questionnaires for Lent Term 2021 would be available for consultation in due course. For queries, people should email phil-admin@lists.cam.ac.uk

16. Any other business.

17. The next SSC meeting would be held in Michaelmas Term 2021. Faculty Board meeting dates for 2021-22 are:

Michaelmas Term 2021-22

Monday 18 October
Monday 22 November

Lent Term 2022

Monday 31 January
Monday 7 March

Easter Term 2022

Monday 23 May

Long Vacation 2022

Monday 4 July