

## FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

### OPEN MEETING OF STAFF, GRADUATES AND UNDERGRADUATES

The Open Meeting of Philosophy Staff and Students was held on Tuesday 18 October 2011 at 1.10 p.m. in the RFB Room 326, Faculty of Philosophy, Sidgwick Site.

Present: Margrit Edwards (Chief Secretary), Tim Crane (Chair of the Faculty Board, in the Chair), Heather Sanderson (Administrator), Charlie Evans (Secretarial Assistant), Catherine French, Flora Sisman, Jasper Wong, Yiqing Hu.

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Professor Crane opened the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves.

- 1 Minutes of the Open Meeting of 21 October 2010 were approved.
- 2 Brief report by the Chair of the Faculty, Professor Tim Crane:  
Professor Crane briefly reported on the business of the past academic year. He mentioned staff changes for 2011–12, and noted that Prof Huw Price (Bertrand Russell Professor) started at the Faculty in October 2011.  
Prof Crane also reported that Dr Serena Olsaretti is on leave for the whole of 2011-12 and that Dr Maike Albertzart will continue to provide cover for her as a temporary lecturer for 2011-12. It was also noted that three Temporary Teaching Associates have been appointed from 1st October 2011 until 30th June 2012: Dr Sacha Golob, Dr Sophia Connell (part-time (50%)), and Dr Adam Stewart-Wallace (part-time (50%)).  
It was further noted that Eoin Devlin (Library Issue Desk) has left the Faculty to take up a Junior Research Fellowship in the History Faculty, and has been replaced by Mrs Magda Fletcher.

Prof Tim Crane explained that he is the Chair of the Faculty Board for 2011-12 and 2012-13, and that Dr Arif Ahmed is the Undergraduate Co-ordinator for the Faculty for 2011-12. Prof Crane also reported that Prof Michael Potter is Director of Graduate Studies for MT 2011 and LT 2012, followed by Dr Fraser MacBride in ET 2012 and 2012-13 (Prof Crane noted that Dr MacBride is currently on leave, so students may not have met him yet). It was further noted that Prof Jane Heal is MPhil Co-ordinator for 2011-12.

Prof Crane mentioned that there had been some small syllabus changes, and that students were consulted on these changes via the Staff-Student Committee.

The Syllabus changes for 2011-12 were:

- a) Part IA, Paper 1, Metaphysics and philosophy of mind  
'Causality' has been changed to 'causation', and 'agency' has been deleted, as shown below:  
**Causation:** regularity; necessitation; determinism and fatalism.  
Free will: ~~agency~~; concepts of freedom.

- b) Part IA, Paper 2, Ethics **and political philosophy** (the title has been changed from 'Ethics')  
(*The syllabus wording has not been changed.*)
- c) Part II, Paper 3, Ethics  
'resource allocation' has been replaced by 'health and healthcare', as shown below:  
Biomedical ethics: prenatal screening and abortion; genetic engineering and eugenics; ~~resource allocation~~, **health and healthcare**.
- d) Part II, Political Philosophy  
'sexual harassment' has been replaced by 'masculinity and femininity', as shown below:  
Feminism: economic justice and gender; the ethics of care; gender and difference; pornography; rape; ~~sexual harassment~~ **masculinity and femininity**.

Prof Crane also emphasized that while Part II students who have taken Part IB Philosophy now have the option to submit both a dissertation in place of the Essay Paper (paper 12) and two extended essays in place of any one of papers 1-11 (giving the option of doing 40% coursework), following the Faculty Board meeting on 17th October 2011, it was agreed that students changing in to Philosophy at Part II will **not** be able to submit extended essays *and* a dissertation in 2011-12. Prof Crane felt it was important that all Part II students understood this change.

Prof Crane also reminded students that the unreserved minutes of the Faculty Board meetings are available for consultation in the Faculty Office, as are the minutes of the Staff-Student Committee meetings (Staff-Student Committee meeting minutes from October 2010 onwards are also available on the Faculty website). Prof Crane explained that these minutes are made available in order to make the Faculty as transparent as possible.

- 3 The Staff-Student Committee:  
A short outline of the way the Staff-Student Committee functions was circulated. Prof Crane explained that the Staff-Student Committee meets once a term to discuss matters of students concerns, their objections, requests, queries, problems with teaching, etc. It was noted that the Staff-Student Committee is a formal channel for students to express views, that will then be considered by the Faculty Board meeting which next follows the meeting of the Staff-Student Committee meeting. It was also explained that when Faculty Board is considering taking action that will directly impact on students, they will seek students opinions via the Staff-Student Committee.  
It was noted that the Staff-Student Committee works most efficiently if students initially raise any issues with their Student Reps, who can then seek the opinions of their fellow students on these issues before bringing them to the SSC. If students bring concerns direct to the Staff-Student Committee without consulting their fellow students, it can be difficult to know what the consensus is on an issue, and this can waste time.

- 4 Representatives on the Staff-Student Committee:  
Student members were sought from all Parts of the Tripos and from amongst the graduates. It was explained that students who agree to be representatives for their year group perform a different function from elected Faculty Board Representatives (see below for more information on elections for Faculty Board Reps). It was noted that it is hoped that at least two students from each Part of the Tripos would act as student representatives on this Committee for their year group. It was noted that the Chair and the Secretary of the Faculty Board are ex-officio members of the Committee.

The following students have agreed to represent their year groups from 18 October 2011 until the next Open Meeting in the Michaelmas Term 2012:

<b>Representing IA:</b>	Jasper Wong	(Peterhouse)
<b>Representing Part IB:</b>	Yiqing Hu	(Gonville and Caius)
<b>Representing Part II:</b>	Flora Sisman Matthew Simpson	(Fitzwilliam) (Robinson)
<b>Representing Graduates:</b>		
<b>MPhil:</b>	Catherine French	(St Edmunds)
<b>Ph.D.:</b>	Amanda Cawston	(Downing)

The students who agreed to act as representatives were encouraged to see if they could find other students in their year group who would also be willing to act as a rep.

- 5 Date of the Staff-Student Committee Meeting  
It was agreed to hold the first Staff-Student Committee meeting on Tuesday 8 November 2011 at 13.05h in the Philosophy Board Room.
- 6 The following announcements were noted:

**Election of Chair of the Staff-Student Committee**

It was noted that the Committee will be asked to elect a Chair at the next Staff-Student Committee meeting.

**Student Election to the Faculty Board**

It was reported that the elections for student representatives on the Philosophy Faculty Board will be held on **Tuesday 29 November 2011** with the closing of nominations a week earlier on **23 November 2011**.

It was further reported that this year, the Faculty has been invited to use an online voting system for the student elections. The Faculty Office would be keen to try out this system, and Faculty Board Reps had been asked to find out if students would also support using it. Flora Sisman reported that she had consulted with students, but hadn't received any replies. It was decided

that as no objections had been raised, the online voting system will be used for this years elections.

### **Student Representatives on the Councils of the Schools**

This year 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. The date has yet to be confirmed by the Council of the Schools, but is likely to take place during the Lent Term. CUSU and the Education Section will contact students directly about this.

### **Faculty Reps – who are they and what do they do?**

A document from CUSU will shortly be circulated to students by email.

### **Suggestion Box**

Attention was drawn to the suggestion box in the Old Library where students are invited to post any comments they wish to make on any Faculty related matter. Students will be encouraged to fill in questionnaires at the end of lecture series, but anyone wishing to comment on any lecture courses or seminars before the end of term should do so via the suggestion box.

The meeting ended at 13.30h.