

UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHICAL, ANTHROPOLOGICAL & FILM STUDIES

PHILOSOPHY STAFF/STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF 21 OCTOBER 2009

Present:

Katie Allan (Secretary), Sarah Broadie, Yuri Cath, Ian Church (Student Rep, PhD), Niall Hartnett (Student Rep, Honours), Katherine Hawley, Ben Hofmann (Student Rep, Honours), Lisa Jones, Antonia Ketabchi (Student Rep, Evening Degree), Seth Kitson (Student Rep, 2000 level), Caitlin Leach (Student Rep, 2000 level), Sarah Lohmann (Student Rep, Honours), Sophie McIlwraith (Student Rep, Honours), Colin MacIver (Student Rep, MLitt), Tim Mulgan, Simon Prosser, Stephen Read, Craig Smith, Lucas Thorpe, Jens Timmermann, Deborah Van Herstraeten (Student Rep, 1000 level), Annie Wiles (Student Rep, 2000 level) and Thomas Wilson (Student Rep, 1000 level).

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Apologies for Absence

Derek Ball, Jessica Brown, Kelly Diepenbrock (Student Rep, 1000 level), Berys Gaut, Dilip Ninan and David Walker.

2. Minutes of the Philosophy Staff/Student Liaison Committee meeting held on 6 May 2009

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2009 were approved and adopted.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

There were no matters arising.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4. Election of a Student Convenor

The student members of the committee participated in a ballot to select the Student Convenor for 2009/10. The ballot was conducted by the Secretary and three students stood for election: Ben Hofmann, Sophie McIlwraith and Sarah Lohmann.

Sarah Lohmann was duly voted in as the Student Convenor and took the chair from the Director of Teaching for the remainder of the meeting.

STUDENT BUSINESS

5. Sub Honours Matters

The student reps reported that they had no issues that they wished to raise at this stage in the semester.

6. Honours Matters

6.1 *PY4604 Political Philosophy*

It was reported that a number of students have been experiencing difficulties in obtaining required items from the Library and from bookshops.

The module co-ordinator acknowledged that there had been a breakdown in communication with the Library about the requirements for this module and his request for items to be placed permanently on short loan had not been actioned. This issue should now be resolved and items available via the short loan collection. He went on to note that all tutorial readings are available via the Departmental Library. After further discussion, the module co-ordinator undertook to liaise with the Departmental Library Rep about ordering multiple copies of key items.

6.2 *University Timetable*

One student sought clarification on when the University considers the afternoon timetable to commence. It was confirmed that the official lunch hour is recognised as 1 – 2pm, with the afternoon timetable commencing at 2pm.

6.3 *PY3701 Language and Reality*

A small number of students on this module reported that they felt seminars were lacking in focus and requested whether the seminars could be focused around a specific topic or theme or a specific question in order to aid preparation and engagement.

The module co-ordinator agreed that this could be arranged and undertook to liaise with tutors.

6.4 *University Timetable Clash*

A student reported that there is a clash in the honours timetable for students taking joint degrees requiring them to take logic in Philosophy and Physics modules. The possibility of moving the second semester logic module was raised by students.

The difficulty of re-scheduling a module to a slot that is suitable to all enrolled students and for which suitable accommodation can be found was outlined by staff. It was agreed that this option would be investigated.

7. MLitt Matters

7.1 *Availability of Reading Lists*

The fact that reading lists for the MLitt programme were not made available to students prior to the start of the session has meant that students were not assisted with preparatory reading over the summer prior to arriving in St Andrews and many students then experienced delays in accessing readings as they waited for book orders to arrive. Students suggested that reading lists should be made available earlier.

It was also reported that some students had experienced difficulties when trying to purchase a core text for Research Methods as the book is out of print.

It was agreed that module co-ordinators would seek to improve the availability of materials by making copies of core readings available via the Departmental Library and making better use of WebCT.

7.2 Stirling

A number of students reported that they felt the Monday trip to Stirling was not the best use of time and the travelling made it a very long day. It was reported that students have not yet been matriculated at Stirling and that access to the IT facilities and Library at Stirling remains difficult. It was reported that Stirling had been provided with all relevant student information at the start of session to allow matriculation at Stirling and that this matter would be raised with colleagues at Stirling.

8. Research Postgraduate Matters

The student rep reported that he did not have any matters to raise and informed the committee that he attends as a representative of the postgraduate tutors.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

9. AOCB

9.1 MLitt Programme

The committee asked the MLitt Rep to liaise with the MLitt students to see if they wished to have a separate SSCC meeting to deal with MLitt matters or to remain as part of the existing SSCC. He was also asked to consider whether they wished to have representation on the SSCC in Stirling.

10. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is ***Wednesday 18 November at 2pm.***

***Katie M Allan
Senior Administrator
10 November 2009***