

## **Minutes of Meeting of Philosophy Departments Staff/Student Consultative Council Meeting, held on 10 March 2008.**

Present: Staff: Peter Clark, James Harris, Katherine Hawley, Tim Mulgan, Simon Prosser, Craig Smith, Elia Zardini, Rhona Paterson.

Students: Kevin Bay, Ruth Boeker, Laura Delgado, Ann Parker Hammock, Ben Hofman, Heidi Hughes, Charles Kesser, Anders Linden, Kyle Mitchell, Michael Piekos, Fraser Rickman, Lukas Ross, Molly Uzzell.

Chair: Hannah Ormisher.

1) **Apologies:** Elizabeth Ashford, Berys Gaut, Lisa Jones, Stephen Read, Lauren Wachsman.

2) **Minutes of last meeting** The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3) **Matters Arising**

Web CT – it is possible for students to access courses that they are not enrolled on as long as we know who these students are so we can add them. Hannah Ormisher will check with the Honours students to see if they would all like access to all of the Honours courses.

The core modules will be offered in a different order next year.

The Philosophy library will be kept as it is for the next few years when it will be reviewed again.

There was not enough business to discuss for the December meeting to take place.

4) **Student business**

Exam feedback – a general report will be prepared about each module after the examination diet. These reports will then be emailed to students by the course coordinators. Students thought it would be useful to incorporate how many marks each question is worth.

### **Sub-honours issues:**

#### PY1106

Students asked if this module could be incorporated with IR. The Module Co-ordinator mentioned that he had made advisors aware of this.

A staff member was praised on his lectures and slides but was asked if quotes could be highlighted to make it easier to follow.

There was a complaint about disturbances during class by people arriving late. A rule will be made that students should use the back door when arriving late.

There was also a request for an introduction to each topic that indicated which books would be useful to use.

#### Logic Modules

Students felt there was no agreement on some of the answers in logic and asked if tutors were given answer sheets beforehand. The Module Co-ordinator explained that all tutors were given solution sheets and that he'd make sure these were put on Web CT.

## **Honours issues:**

### PY4637

A student complained about essay feedback and that he couldn't discuss his mark due to the lecturer having already left. The Module Co-ordinator explained that this was an unusual situation where by there was no exam just two essays, and that the module was offered by staff who were not in St Andrews all year, meaning it was more difficult to gain feedback. The External examiner was consulted about this and checked through the essays with this in mind.

### PY3701

It was suggested that this module be split in to two in order to have a Philosophy of Language module and a Metaphysics module. The Director of Teaching explained that we need core modules to ensure that students gain a little bit of knowledge in a variety of topics. This is in fact a compromise as we don't want to fill students timetables with core modules. It was also suggested that the module be split up from a 2 hour lecture a week to two one hour lectures, one at the start of the week and one towards the end. The final suggestion was that the core modules be in 2<sup>nd</sup> year and not 3<sup>rd</sup>. The Director of Teaching already tried thinking about this but there were a lot of clashes with other modules which made this too restrictive. Any communication on this should be emailed to the Director of Teaching at: phildot

### Dissertation

It was asked that advice be given on dissertations. The Director of Teaching explained that advice is actually given at advising and through an in-depth session in the autumn. Prior to that students should pick a subject and then speak to a lecturer in that field.

### Library

Students agree that the Philosophy library is very helpful but the Journals aren't of great use to them.

### Electronic Submission

It was mentioned that we will be using full electronic submission next academic year. Students expressed concern over problems with uploading essays in other departments. The Director of Teaching will look at other department and find out the problems they are having.

## **M.Litt issues:**

Students complained about essays without comments. The PG Convenor explained there will be comments somewhere and students should request them from either himself or the Departmental Secretary. Failing that, students can email the person teaching the course and ask for further feedback. Some students marks weren't on the essays. The PG Convenor suggested that marks be emailed out to the students. The PG Convenor will also ask markers to write useful comments.

### PY5203

The course description wasn't informative. The PG Convenor will ask that longer course descriptions be written or allow students to contact the person teaching the course.

It was asked that if a member of staff is unavailable could the course convener be informed so other arrangements can be made.

The Departmental Secretary was asked to resend the email regarding M.Litt evaluation forms.

5) **Staff business**

Due to examinations being different time lengths the students were asked if they'd prefer to be disturbed in the examination hall by students leaving earlier or if they'd prefer examinations to be two days in a row. All agreed they'd prefer to be disturbed. A priority on this will be made.

6) **Any other business**

Election of the new convener will be held of for the time being as 4 people are in the running.

The meeting was closed at 1.55 p.m.