

Minutes of Meeting of Philosophy Departments Staff/Student Consultative Council Meeting, held on 30 October 2007.

Present: Staff: Amber Carpenter, Peter Clark, Berys Gaut, James Harris, Katherine Hawley, Lisa Jones, Antti Kauppinen, Tim Mulgan, Simon Prosser, Stephen Read.

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, Lauren Wachsmann, Molly Uzzell.

Chair: Hannah Ormisher.

- 1) **Apologies:** Rhiannon Murray.
- 2) **Minutes of last meeting** The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
- 3) **Matters Arising**

Under Honours issues a staff member hoped that a dissertation seminar would be put in place. This was arranged and carried out at the start of Semester .

- 4) **Student business**

Sub-honours issues:

1st Year

It was mentioned that the introduction to Metaphysics is biased. The Module Co-ordinator requested that more information about this concern be sent by email for further consideration

2nd Year

There was a concern noted about PY2001 Formal and Philosophical Logic that there were not enough examples and no essay. The module co-ordinator explained that things had changed this year so that there was no continuous assessment essay but there would be an essay question in the examination. He will address this further at the next lecture.

General issues

It was asked if the overlap between some 1st and 2nd year courses had been dealt with. The Head of Department explained that this year we have introduced our new 1st year modules and the hope is that there will be no overlap. As these are new modules she asked that we get feedback on these from students.

Honours issues:

Web CT

It was asked if there could be open access to Web CT pages for modules that students weren't taking. It was explained that students can email the course coordinator to be added to the Web CT pages for any given module. One idea was that there could be a general password for all Philosophy students to access these. The Head of Department will look in to this.

Advising

It was asked why there was no list for courses being held in a years time. The Honours Advisor explained that there are problems constructing an accurate list of modules offered as we don't know who's teaching each course or who's on leave that far in advance. It was

decided a preliminary list would be constructed with a warning to students that not all the information may be correct.

PY4601

Students feel there is not a lot of opportunity for discussion on this course and would it be helpful to arrange an extra hour for discussion. The Module Co-ordinator explained that they can't really take up more of student/staff time but students could arrange a discussion session themselves that could be reported back to him. This was agreed.

PY3702

It was asked if lecture slides could be made available before the tutorials. The Module Co-ordinator will make sure this happens and will mention it at the next session.

The structure of the course seems a little vague. The Module Co-ordinator will address this and will look back on previous lectures. Students can also address these issues directly with him. There seems to be too much material covered too quickly. The Head of Department explained that this is because the core modules were taught the opposite way around this year and this has made teaching slightly more difficult.

It was asked if there could be two one hour lectures rather than one two hour lecture. The Head of Department explained that this was out of the Module Co-ordinators hands at we had booked the times for this course before he'd even arrived. The Module Co-ordinator has introduced a break in between the two hours which has helped.

It was asked what the purpose of the passages written before seminars were and how do they affect the final grade. The Module Co-ordinator explained that the passages don't actually count towards students final grade.

Mlitt issues

Dissertations

It was asked that it be written in the Honours Handbook that students can request feedback on their dissertations. This will be seen to.

There was a complaint about the Research Methods module and Current Issues I. The PG Convenor explained that nothing could be changed for this years M.Litt's in Research Methods but changes would defiantly be made for the second semester in Current Issues II where by for one hour they block all the students together then in the second break them in to smaller groups. The PG Convenor will email the lecturers at Stirling regarding the Research Methods module and will address the possibility of changing the textbook for this in next years agenda.

There was also a complaint about courses being taught in Stirling that students thought would be more appropriately taught by members of staff in St. Andrews. The PG Convenor explained that it all depends on who they have available to teach each year.

It was mentioned that last years M.Litt's are still showing up on the Philosophy webpages. These will be updated.

5) **Staff business**

The Head of Department explained that the PhD's now have their own committee and will email Hannah Ormisher about this. All their issues are being addressed.

The Head of Department explained that students could have the option to hand in their essays electronically and asked if they liked this option. Any feedback on this should be sent to the Philosophy Secretary on: rjs17

The Head of School mentioned the future of the Philosophy Library and explained that due to lack of office space we may need to use the alcove in the library to create an office. He asked that a questionnaire be drawn up and circulated round the students so we could get some feedback on this.

6) **Any other business**

The next meeting should be scheduled before the next School Council meeting due to be held on the 19th of December.

The meeting was closed at 2.00 p.m.