# Staff-Student Consultative Council Meeting

**9th February 2017, 16:00, The Boardroom, 99 North Street**

Present: Professor R Burgoyne, Dr M Cowan (HoD), Dr LF Donaldson (DoT), Dr J O’Meara, Kit Klaes (School President), Anna Juszczyk (1st year rep), Catherine Sweeney and Lazlo Szegedi (2nd Year reps), Ruby Eleftheriottis and Gabrielle Levey (Honours reps), Ronan Davis (PGT reps).

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<th>Agenda</th>
<th>Points Raised</th>
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<td>1. Welcome</td>
<td>Kit welcomed everyone to the meeting.</td>
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| 2. Apologies | Kit announced the following apologies: Erin Main (1st Year rep), Lucy Ralston (PGT rep), Tommy Rowe, Fi Pollock (Honours Reps), Connor McMorran (PGR rep).  
Lucy announced the following apologies: Dr L Torchin (DoI), Professor D Iordanova (DoR), Dr E Girelli, Dr A Jain, Dr T Rice (on research leave), Dr D Hanlon (DoPG) |
| 3. Matters Arising | Dr Donaldson announced that a sign-out sheet has been organised for organising use of the department’s film equipment. However, this sheet will not be used during the Film Blitz.  
Dr Donaldson also noted that, in response to feedback, specific marking rubric is now available for the smaller assessments in FM2002 (and will be made available for FM2001 in the future). |
| 4. External Examiner Feedback | Dr Donaldson emphasised how useful the feedback is from individuals who visit numerous institutions. See Appendix 1 for external examiner comments on each s1 module. External examiner comments will be noted at SSCC from this point on. |
| 5. MEQ Feedback | A new recurrent agenda item agreed on by the DoT and School President – to highlight the feedback loop between students and department: ‘you said, we did’. Dr Donaldson thanked reps for encouraging course mates to complete their MEQs. Almost every module reached the required 60% turn in rate.  
The following issues were raised:  
FM1001: Concerns with note-taking and finding articles. Dr Donaldson suggested various ways this support could be |
provided (support notes on MMS/ time in tutorials / workshop in ILW). Anna Juszczyk suggested this could be addressed in a tutorial early in the module (with the option of pointing to additional support in ILW).

FM2001: Concerns with late finishes to screenings, especially when 2 films are shown.
Dr Donaldson said that efforts are being made to avoid evening slots for screenings, though this is difficult given pressures on room availability, but that double film screenings would be kept to a minimum in the future.

Also, concerns with lots of content for 2 lectures per week. Although it isn’t possible to change the pattern of teaching for the module, Dr Donaldson asked the reps how they might see this addressed. Catherine suggested an optional extra workshop to help cover the material. Dr Donaldson suggested this could be organised during the Independent Learning Week.

FM4099: Concerns with dissertations having different submission requirements for single honours compared to joint honours students.
Dr Donaldson said that submission requirements would now been made uniform across both programmes, and that there would be greater transparency on how students taking different dissertation options would be marked.

FM4110 - Images and Impact: Concerns with multiple deadlines and workload.
The Module Convenor and the external examiner agreed with this concern, hence the quantity will be reduced next time the module is run (Principally, 5 journal entries will be reduced to 3).

FM4114 - Film Genres: Concerns that unassessed presentations were too burdensome and time-consuming.
Dr Donaldson said that next time the module is run there will be fewer assessments and that they will be assessed (and that this feedback will inform how modules use presentations more generally).

FM4117 - Modernity and the Moving Image: Concern with the required reading being quite challenging.
Department suggested that more class time be dedicated to discussing required reading next time the module is run.

FM4206 – Cinemas of India: Concern that assessments did not
match the weekly seminar topic. Dr Donaldson acknowledged that the external examiner was impressed by students’ ability to rise to this particular challenge. However, she said that future assessments could be more closely tied to seminar topics.

**FM5103 - Colour Technology and Aesthetics: Concerns with uncertainty regarding the second deadline date.** This uncertainty was resolved, and Dr Donaldson said that this feedback will inform the setting of deadlines in the future.

### 6. Subhonours Class Reports

1\textsuperscript{st} Year: Erin organised a drop-in session earlier in the semester. Positive feedback for FM1002 focused on the structure of the course, as well as the clear connections between the assignments and the course content.

2\textsuperscript{nd} Year: Catherine organised a survey among students. Positive feedback for FM2001 focused on the cultural diversity of screened films, the fact that key readings were available online and the use of clips in lectures. There were some concerns over limited assessment feedback.

### 7. Honours Class Reports

FM4110: There were concerns from students that the general feedback seemed disconnected from the marginalia notes, which did not seem as constructive as they felt it could have been. [From Dr Donaldson: note the external examiner’s comments on the constructive nature of the feedback].

Suggestion that assessment deadlines be moved from 1pm to midnight. Dr Donaldson said that a move to later in the day was a possibility, though midnight would be unfeasible due to not being able to address possible last minute submission problems.

FM4118: There was positive feedback for the less stringent deadlines (where students have a window of 3 weeks to upload a blog post).

Kit noted that some students find that essays that represent 50\% of the module mark cause more intense pressure.

FM4114: Ruby said that the Film Genres module incorporates a strong range of film examples.

FM4308: The required films tie in effectively with the week’s topics, though the classes themselves could devote more time to the required readings. Dr Donaldson said that she would take the latter point on board.

### 8. PG Class Reports

PGRs On behalf of Connor, Kit said that PG students have
requested trigger warnings prior to film screenings. Dr Donaldson noted that this is a complicated issue, since in some cases shocking moments rely on the element of surprise for their impact.

Gaby suggested that it would be important to take any medical issues into consideration, and that some students are sensitive to intense content and would appreciate the warnings. It was agreed that any films featuring strobe lighting effects would be given trigger warnings. Kit suggested that the onus be on students to research films beforehand.

MLitt- Ronan said that students had been able to arrange meetings with staff prior to completing their December assessments. Immediate feedback to the Colour MEQ had been appreciated.

9. AOB

Kit reminded everyone that the Blitz sign up deadline was the 28th February. Filming will take place between 3rd and 5th March, whilst the final Gala screening would be on 8th March.

Professor Burgoyne confirmed that Joe Russo will once again be judging the finalists.

The next SSCC meeting will be in Week 8.

APPENDIX 1: Comments from External Examiners (S1 Modules)

FM1001:  
As usual, clearly well-run, engaging, combining varied interesting scholarship and film, and clearly engaging to the students. Varied and creative assessments.

FM2001:  
Great class that does an important job for the program. Student attainment is good. All marks were fair and reasonable. The breadth of your program is really to be commended.

FM4099:  
Both were very good – and nicely ambitious, in differing ways, clearly reflecting the shaping influence of faculty and the work these students have done over their time at St Andrews. I must commend again the level of detailed and thoughtfull feedback – truly exceptional, both of them like really excellent reader’s reports on a manuscript.

FM4110:  
It is a terrific module at the cutting edge of the way the field of film and screen studies is expanding and developing – a real strength of the program overall, and this module is important to that. Clearly the students got a lot out of the class, and the diverse work they produced was very impressive – pushed always by the convener to reflect and improve. The work the students did across very
diverse issues in relation to documentary, propaganda, educational media, activism, radical media practices was very impressive.

FM4114: The external praised the work as smart, thoughtful, and innovative and clearly demonstrating great engagement and interest on behalf of the students. I was very impressed with the very detailed and thoughtful feedback the students got, which balanced well praise with astute analysis of how to improve.

FM4117: This is very innovative and cutting edge, and a terrific addition to the program. It does a great job of asking complex questions about historical specificity and continuity; it asks students to think of creative ways to engage with this material (e.g. in an exhibition); and the feedback on the very interesting essays is simply excellent: detailed, thoughtful, engaged, pushing the students to think further.

FM4206: Very clearly delineated. The students produced good work, and it was encouraging to see their engagement with the material. The comments from the markers were detailed and thoughtful, helpfully encouraging but also pushing the students to be more precise and focused.

FM5103: I am impressed by the high standards reached by the students, and by the thorough and fair comments made by the tutors. I am struck by the balance in student work between attention to theory and form. The textual analyses are obvious cases in point, as those demand close attention to detail, but the detail is informed by theoretical awareness.