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

PHILOSOPHY STAFF/STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF 23 MARCH 2011

Present:

Katie Allan (Secretary), Jessica Biggs (Student Rep, 1000 level), Sarah Broadie, Josephine Buerger (Student Rep, 1000 level), Ian Church (Student Rep, PhD), Ephraim Glick, Patrick Greenough, James Harris, Ben Hofmann (Philosophy School President & Convenor), Jonathan Ichikawa, Holly Johns (Student Rep, Honours), Matthew Knotts (Student Rep, MLitt), John Skorupski, Craig Smith, Qi Tian (Student Rep, 1000 level), Jens Timmermann.

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Apologies for Absence

Faisal Alkhatib (Student Rep, Honours), Berys Gaut, Deborah van Herstraeten (Student Rep, 2000 level), Lisa Jones, Simon Prosser, Amy Taggart (Student Rep, Honours).

2. Minutes of the Philosophy Staff/Student Liaison Committee meeting held on 17 November 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2010 were approved and adopted.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

3.1 Review of the Advising Process (item 5.1 refers)

The School President reported that he has taken the feedback from the previous meeting to the Students’ Association and that there were no issues of concern for Philosophy students about this process.

3.2 Change to Module Feedback System (item 5.2 refers)

The Director of Teaching reported, via the School President, that all module co-ordinators, lecturers and tutors had received their evaluation feedback results from semester 1, and have paid due attention to it. All evaluations are being collated in the Departmental Office so that the Director of Teaching and Director of Graduate Studies can have an overview, and any issues arising from this feedback will be addressed.

3.3 Appointment of Professor Roger Scruton (item 5.4 refers)

The Head of Department reported that Professor Scruton was now in St Andrews having taken up his appointment as Professorial Fellow in Moral Philosophy. He confirmed that a letter was sent recently to all students on the modules to which Professor Scruton will be contributing teaching which confirmed details of his expertise and the contributions he will be making to teaching and research within the department.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

4. General Committee Business

There were no matters raised for discussion under this item.
STUDENT BUSINESS

5. General Matters

5.1 Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

The School President, on behalf of the Director of Teaching, reported on the introduction of the new Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR). This new record will allow additional student accomplishments to be added to the student record. The relevant policy document was circulated for the information of the committee and the School President undertook to circulate this document via email to all members of the committee.

5.2 Class Library

The Head of Department reported on plans for the future of the Philosophy Class Library. These involve the removal of the popular short loan books to the main University Library and the less popular short loan books will be placed on the main shelves in the Class Library.

6. Sub - Honours Matters

6.1 First Year

It was reported that some students had expressed concern about the time available to develop good writing skills in Philosophy before formal assessment begins. It was suggested that more detailed guidance should be given to first year students in the early stages of the first semester modules. Some students would welcome a more structured approach to tutorials as well as more guidance of the requirements for tutorial participation. The Sub-Honours Coordinator confirmed that these matters would be considered before the start of next session.

6.2 Second Year

The Student Rep reported a good response from students in second year Philosophy and no substantial concerns have been raised for consideration by the committee.

7. Honours Matters

7.1 Prize Seminar ‘Human Rights’

The School President reported that this seminar was very well-received by the honours students who participated and that the students would like to see this pilot scheme continue in future years.

8. MLitt Matters

8.1 PY5103 Research Methods

The Student Rep reported that a number of students who took the ‘Metaphysics’ stream for this module felt that the core text used was too obscure and too specialised and some students would have preferred the use of a more central text. The Director of the MLitt noted that he would raise this matter with the module co-ordinator before next session.

9. Research Postgraduate Matters

There were no matters raised for discussion under this item.
MATTERS FOR NOTING

10. AOCB

There were no items of any other competent business.

11. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is tbc.

Katie M Allan
Senior Administrator
5 April 2011