PRESENT

Sally Allmark, Derek Ball, Gabriel Bishop, Sarah Broadie, David Callaberos, Marilyn Cossan, Aaron Cotnoir, Aisling Crean, Cordelia Diamond, Berys Gaut, Patrick Greenough, John Haldane, Patrick Hansen, Eleanor Heagney, Peter Hella, Celia Hindley, Lynn Hynd, Lisa Jones, Eleanor Mullin (Philosophy School President & Convenor), Simon Prosser, Barbara Sattler, Joe Slater, Ieva Vasiljeva, Christopher Young, Antonia Zimmermann

PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Apologies for Absence

Jessica Brown, Herman Cappelen, Justin Snedegar, Jens Timmermann

2. Minutes of the Philosophy Staff/Student Liaison Committee meeting held on 19 February 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2014 were approved and adopted.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

3.1 Facebook Activity

The School President reported that Facebook groups were not particularly successful but that they would continue to refine their approach. It was suggested that some information could be sent by email at the beginning of the year pointing out the benefits. It was thought that the class reps could assist with this.

3.2 Third Year Compulsory Module

The Director of Teaching reported that the curriculum review for undergraduate Philosophy has resulted in new module proposals. Although still in draft format, new modules have been proposed which have to be submitted to the faculty for approval. It is expected these changes will be available for the 2015/16 session and will be added to the course catalogue in advance. There will be no compulsory modules for third years and no 10 credit modules assuming these changes are approved. (Secretary’s Note: Subsequent to the meeting, it has transpired that the removal of 3000-level modules from the programme may not be permitted and planning is still on-going).

STAFF BUSINESS

4. Teaching and Learning News

4.1 Introductory Sessions

Introductory sessions for those entering Honours level and those embarking on dissertation study were held in pre-sessional week, and were given an overwhelmingly positive feedback. These sessions were advertised in advance by the Director of Teaching and the Honours Advisor. We intend to repeat these sessions for next year, although it was suggested that the
sessions might be more usefully run in May than in September. This will be given more consideration.

4.2 Resource Tool on Moodle
A new resource tool has been designed on Moodle and will be made available for second year students upwards. The tool teaches students how to carry out searches for philosophy resources. Students will be emailed regarding this facility as they will need a password to sign in. (Secretary’s note: the resource will be launched at the start of semester 2).

4.3 Module Evaluation Questionnaires
These questionnaires will be submitted electronically and will be available from around week 9-10 and open for 4 weeks. It will be promoted when it is available. The question was raised as to whether this should be moved to around the end of teaching. Although the students wish to have their feedback suggestions implemented during the session, this is not possible as the results of the feedback-gathering exercise are not provided for staff until after the end of semester.

4.4 Honours Skill Workshop - Dissertation session
It was suggested that the dissertation session could be moved to pre-advising time however that may mean that there would be a need for a second session.

5. Under-Graduate Reading Party
This year the Reading Party is organised for April 2015 by Ben Sachs. It was agreed the Student Reps would design a plan of how to encourage students to attend the Reading Party. There was a suggestion of opening this up to 1st and 2nd year students, but no decision was made at this point.

STUDENT BUSINESS:

6. PhD Report

6.1 Payment for Tutoring
It was reported at the meeting that Social Anthropology tutors are paid for marking 4,000 words/hr, whilst in Philosophy the same rate is for 4,500 words. Since tutor pay for marking is a budgetary matter it was decided to send these details to Jessica Brown to allow her to evaluate. [Secretary’s note: this issue was subsequently discussed within and across the School, and a response was sent to the PG rep for dissemination to tutors.]

6.2 Clarification and expansion of the role of placement officer
Three sessions have been organised and have taken place over the last few weeks:
   a. Katherine Hawley – session on jobs in the UK.
   b. Justin Snedegar – session on jobs in the US.

6.3 Updating the website
It was reported that the SASP website and the Placement Record is outdated. A suggestion was made to add testimonials from recent graduates. It appears that Mike needs to update the website. There was a suggestion made to integrate the site back onto the SASP website, but no decision on this was made.

7. MLitt Report
A thank you was made to the faculty for organising the Reading Party. The Stirling ID card issue is still being addressed, but has not been resolved yet. No other items of business were raised.
8. Honours Report

PY3701 Language and Reality: This module was enjoyed and the students have found the tutorials useful. However, there is an issue with the heating and the lecture theatre is very cold. This issue is still being resolved.

PY4639 Philosophy of Creativity: Positive feedback received here also.

General student feedback is that sample essays would be appreciated. It was agreed these would be given.

9. Second Year Report

PY2003 Ancient Philosophy
There was positive feedback from the students. It was suggested that more precise tutorial tasks would be beneficial, and more guidance was needed. A suggestion was made that the tutors could email a focus point before the tutorial. It was suggested that we need to raise awareness of alternative reading lists. Module co-ordinators are to be asked to send out a relevant email about this.

Feedback on PY2002 Metaphysics & Logic was that Reading lists were appropriate. The compulsory reading was not too much.

10. First Year Report

PY1105 Ethical Controversies: The student rep reported that students had asked to be provided with samples of good and bad essays to be used as guidance. The Director of Teaching indicated that she would attempt to provide such a sample but noted that this is not straight forward because the permission of the students whose work is used in this may must first be sought. It was mentioned that an essay prep folder is now available for help with the quality of essay required.

Students raised the question of whether graphs could be made visible on MMS showing the distribution of marks/grades. In response, it was queried whether students want this for individual pieces of coursework, or for final grades, or for everything. It was also queried whether ALL students would like this, or whether the request comes only from some students – the concern being that graph visibility might be unwelcome for some students (though, of course, having access to the facility does not entail having to look at the graph). The Philosophy student president agreed to investigate what would be most useful, and the degree of student demand for it.

General Feedback: In general the feedback was positive and although the students are happy with the Ethics module there are some issues with the critical summaries given. Also, there are inconsistencies in the feedback given. Lisa will ask for more feedback and speak to tutors.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

11. AOCB

11.1 Group Learning Sessions: Students would like more group learning sessions – either module-based group sessions or hall based group sessions. The philosophy president will investigate the creation of more autonomous learning groups, and will bring feedback on progress to future meetings.
12. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at 2pm

17 March 2015