PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Apologies for Absence

   Patrick Greenough, John Haldane, Brian McElwee, Matthew Steele (Student Rep, Honours)

2. Minutes of the Philosophy Staff/Student Liaison Committee meeting held on 21 March 2012

   The minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2012 were approved and adopted.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

   There were no matters arising.

STAFF BUSINESS


   The Director of Teaching reported that Philosophy will be the subject of an internal review of teaching and learning this semester. The review visit to the department will take place on Thursday 6 December and the review team wish to meet with different groups of students and staff on this date. Students in Philosophy have received invitations via email to put forward their names to participate in review meetings but the response so far has been poor. Student Reps are urged to remind students and encourage them to participate in this important review process.

STUDENT BUSINESS: GENERAL MATTERS

5. Possibility of a Philosophy Careers Event

   The School President reported that a lot of student interest has been shown in the idea of hosting a careers event aimed at Philosophy students within the department. The committee considered a number of ideas including inviting recent graduates to return to St Andrews to talk about their post-graduation experiences, inviting MLitt or PhD students to talk about
graduate study opportunities, support available via the University Careers Service and from external business.

It was agreed that the possibility of hosting such an event during semester 2 should be explored and the School President undertook to establish an organising committee to take this proposal forward.

STUDENT BUSINESS: MODULE SPECIFIC

6. **PY1005 Mind & Reality**

The Student Rep reported that this module has received excellent feedback from students and the comprehensive handouts for lectures and the tutorial support is especially welcome. Some students were unclear about the guidance issued in relation to essay word limits and what was included within the word limit count. The Director of Teaching clarified this by reference to the information provided in the Philosophy Handbook for Undergraduates and emphasised that the information required on the essay coversheet, including the declaration, are not included in the word count.

7. **PY1105 Ethical Controversies**

The Student Rep reported that she had received very positive feedback about this module and students were particularly enthusiastic about the lectures and the quality of the on-line resources. Some students had reported that they felt that the Q&A sections of the lecture often seemed to stray too far from the topic which caused some confusion and had an impact on the continuity of the lecture as a whole. The Director of Teaching noted that it is considered good practice to break up a one hour lecture with Q&A in order to keep the audience engaged. The Module Lecturer agreed to be more aware of this issue during the semester.

The Student Rep also noted that a few students had noted some overlap in content with pre-university courses in Philosophy. The Director of Teaching responded that the topics covered on this module have been changed this year in response to feedback from students in previous years and in response to the changing demographic which has seen an increase in the proportion of students who have some experience of studying Philosophy prior to university.

8. **PY2003 Ancient Philosophy**

The Student Rep reported that this module has received very positive feedback from students. A small number of students have suggested that the lectures follow closely the required reading for the module and that this is actually a disincentive to students to prepare in advance for classes. It was also noted that lecture handouts are posted on-line after lectures and that these are uploaded on a weekly basis. It was requested that the handouts are uploaded more regularly throughout the week, after each lecture, so that students can use them before the next lecture. The Module Co-ordinator confirmed that this would be arranged for the rest of the semester.

9. **PY2001 Formal & Philosophical Logic**

The Student Rep reported that the students are really enjoying, and benefitting, from the regular weekly examples classes. The module had received very positive feedback. The Rep sought clarification of the submission time for submitted work and it was confirmed that all work submitted in hardcopy i.e. weekly logic exercises should be submitted by 5pm which is the time that the Departmental Office closes.
10. **PY3701 Language & Reality**

The Student Rep reported that student feedback on this module was very positive and students were enjoying the lectures. The teaching staff are extremely helpful and the tutorials are going well.

11. **PY4601 Paradoxes**

The Student Rep reported that this is a popular module and students feel that the lectures are well paced for dealing with challenging material. There have been a few technical issues where posting on MMS have been missing and links to reading materials sent via email do not work. The Director of Teaching advised that these issues should be referred to the Module Co-ordinator as they arise.

12. **PY4619 Social Philosophy**

The Student Rep reported that students on this module were concerned about the assessment on this module which is assessed by 2 essays and is 100% coursework assessment. 2 out of 3 essay topics have not yet been covered in lectures and the 3rd topic was covered only the week before the essay submission deadline. It was noted that the Module Co-ordinator has been made aware of these concerns.

13. **PY4620 Virtue & Vice**

The Student Rep reported that students were finding this to be an enjoyable module with a very approachable and supportive lecturer. The module has received positive feedback.

14. **PY4624 Philosophy of Art**

The Student Rep reported that she had received very positive feedback about this module and students were particularly enthusiastic about the group work element on this module.

**STUDENT BUSINESS: MLITT MATTERS**

15. **Overall Feedback**

The Student Rep reported that all the feedback that he had received had been overwhelmingly positive about the MLitt experience. He went on to note that the staff in the Departmental Office have been very helpful and supportive and really contributed to enhancing the student experience, for example, in assisting with setting up reading groups and with organising workshops and other activities.

16. **Essay Deadlines**

The students are generally satisfied with the essay submission deadlines for semester 1. Some students had commented that they would have wanted more time for the 2nd essay on PY5103 Research Methods but in general there are no serious concerns.

17. **Stirling Day - Mondays**

It was reported that many students felt that a lot of the time on a Monday was wasted by spending a long time on the bus between St Andrews and Stirling.
MATTERS FOR NOTING

18. AOCB

There were no matters for noting.

19. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is **Wednesday 20 February 2013 at 2pm.**

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*Katie M Allan*
*Senior Administrator*
*20 November 2012*