

FACULTY OF CLASSICS

STUDENT-STAFF JOINT COMMITTEE

**There was a meeting of the Committee at 1.10 p.m. on Monday
11 February 2008 in Room 1.04 of the Faculty of Classics.**

Present: Dr Michael Scott (Chair), Mr Andy Corstorphine, Ms Rhiannon Easterbrook,
Mr David Edwards, Prof. S Goldhill, Mr S Howe, Dr Holly Kinnear, Ms
Alison Miller, Dr Paul Millett, Ms Emily Schurr, Ms Lacey Wallace

Apologies: Ms Juliet Cowen, Mr Henry Hurst, Mr Tom Watson

1. Result of elections held on 27 November 2007
The Chair **welcomed** Ms Lacey Wallace, Mr Andy Corstorphine and Ms Emily Schurr to their first meeting as Faculty Board student representatives.
2. Minutes
The Minutes of the meeting of 29 October 2007 were **received and approved**. It was **noted** that, although not listed, Mr Whitton had been present at the meeting.
3. Matters arising not itemised below
 - (i) JRF: entry to scanner/tablet room in 2.05
The Administrative Officer **agreed** to report on this at the next meeting.
 - (ii) Undergraduate common room – Provision of Water
The Committee **noted** that bottled water was now available from the vending machine in the undergraduate common room. The Committee **discussed** the provision of free water and whilst it was not felt that a water cooler was a viable option (this having been looked into on a previous occasion) it was **agreed** that a supply of glasses be provided and that the situation would be monitored.
 - (iii) Undergraduate common room – Provision of PC in addition to Mac
The Administrative Officer **agreed** to report back at the next meeting.
4. Undergraduate Matters
A paper from the undergraduate representatives was **received**. The Committee **noted** the following:
 - (i) Common Room
 - (a) *Seating*

It was **reported** that that seating in the Common Room is starting to get worn and the Committee was asked **to consider** the possibility of providing new furniture.

It was **agreed** that the Administrative Officer would report back at the next meeting.

(b) *Microwave*

The undergraduate representatives **requested** that a microwave be provided for students due to the rising prices in the Buttery, and in Cambridge in general. The Committee **noted** that the staff and graduate common rooms had microwaves.

It was **agreed** that the Administrative Officer would report back at the next meeting.

(ii) Noticeboard

The Committee **considered** the possibility of providing a noticeboard for the SSJC in the Faculty building. It was **suggested** that it may be easier to provide an e-noticeboard on the Faculty's new website.

It was **agreed** that the Administrative Officer would report back at the next meeting.

(iii) MPhil Application Process

The Committee **discussed** the suggestion of holding an AHRC / MPhil Application before the end of Michaelmas Term. The Academic Secretary for Graduate Affairs **reported** that an email should have been circulated informing students about application procedures before the Christmas Vacation. The Committee **noted** that this email did not appear to have been sent.

It was **agreed** that the importance of this email, and its timing, should be reiterated to the relevant faculty bodies for the following year.

(iv) Part II Modern Foreign Language Teaching

It was **reported** that one student had been advised to consult German texts for this thesis but he did not have sufficient language skills. The Academic Secretary for Undergraduate Affairs **noted** his concern that a student was apparently required to read in German, as modern languages are not requisite of the degree. It was **agreed** that this matter should go to the Teaching Committee.

5. Graduate Matters

(i) Library Chairs

The Committee noted the request from one postgrad for more comfortable chairs in the library. This was not deemed by the Committee to be necessary or viable, but Mr Howe did confirm that an adjustable chair was available for use as required.

(ii) Supervisory arrangements during Supervisor's Leave

It was **reported** that some MPhil students are informed of a supervisor's period of leave quite late in the year. This has upset some students who choose Cambridge because of a wish to work with a particular academic. The Committee was **asked to consider** the possibility of alerting students to academic leave earlier in the year.

It was **reported** that the policies of supervision during leave is ambiguous and allows for supervisors to choose whether to continue with supervision responsibilities or not. However, it is expected that supervisors will communicate any plans to their students and assist with the appointment of a new supervision if required. The Committee also **noted** that if a student was particularly keen to work with a specific individual it was the student's responsibility to communicate with their preferred supervisor prior to admission to ensure that supervision for the duration of their degree is likely.

7. Date of Next Meeting
Monday 19 May at 1.10 pm.