

## FACULTY OF CLASSICS

### STUDENT-STAFF JOINT COMMITTEE

**There was a meeting of the Committee at 1.10pm on  
Monday 29 October 2007 in Room 1.04 of the Faculty of Classics**

Present: Dr Michael Scott (Chair), Mr Andy Corstorphine, Ms Juliet Cowen, Ms Rhiannon Easterbrook, Mr David Edwards, Mr S Howe, Dr Helen Morales, Ms Lacey Wallace, Mr James Watson, Tom Watson, Ms Libby Wilson, Ms Alison Miller

Apologies: Mr Henry Hurst, Dr Paul Millett,

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting 21 May 2007 were approved.

2. Matters arising not itemised below

There are no matters arising.

3. Undergraduate Matters

The undergraduate representative had e-mailed fellow students to ask them for items to be discussed at the meeting, but no responses had been received.

4. Graduate Matters

The graduate representatives had e-mailed fellow students to ask them for items to be discussed at the meeting, but no responses had been received. The graduate representatives, however requested the opportunity to discuss the following items:

i *Out-of-hours access and Library account activations*

There had been some confusion over the separate processes for activating University Cards to give out-of-hours access and Library borrowing. Ms Wilson agreed to discuss the matter with the Chief Secretary and to make the process clearer to new graduates in the future.

iii *MPhil representative*

The Committee noted that this was the last meeting for the current MPhil representative, Lacey Wallace. The Committee thanked Ms Wallace for her contribution to the Committee and welcomed David Edwards as the new MPhil representative.

5. JRF Matters

The JRF representative requested the opportunity to discuss the following items:

i *Entry to scanner/tablet room in 2.05*

The issue of out-of-hours access to room 2.05 was discussed. Ms Wilson reported that a swipe-card system was very expensive to install and agreed to look into other ways in which to overcome this problem. The issue would be raised again at the next meeting.

ii *Staff room access*

There was confusion amongst the JRF community as to whether they were entitled to use the staff kitchen or the graduate common room. Ms Wilson agreed to clarify this and an e-mail would be sent out by Dr Scott in due course.

6. Student Questionnaires

Ms Wilson reported back on the following issues:

*Undergraduate Common Room*

The undergraduates requested a supply of cold water (preferably free of charge) in the Common Room. Ms Wilson agreed to liaise with Cambridge Vending about the possibility of supplying non-sugary drinks (such as Perrier) in the vending machine. A supply of plastic cups would be placed in the room. Undergraduate representatives agreed to check for a cold water option on the existing drinks machine. Ms Wilson was sympathetic to the fact that the furniture could do with updating and agreed to look into the matter.

*Academic Comments*

Ms Wilson confirmed that any academic comments from the questionnaires would be forwarded to the Teaching Committee. She requested that any critical issues should be flagged up by the undergraduates to be looked at by the Committee at a future meeting and also by the Classical Languages Committee. It was stressed that there was an ongoing review of Part IA teaching.

7. Examiners' Reports

Ms Wilson reported that the Examiners' Reports had been considered at the Teaching Committee and would continue to be discussed throughout the Michaelmas Term. The Examiners' Reports would be circulated to the student representatives after the meeting.

Dr Morales identified the following areas for discussion:

*Part IA Exam*

- Should there be a change in emphasis between language, literature and other subjects? It was acknowledged that any change in balance might have a knock-on effect in Part IB and Part II in order that the same overall level of linguistic-ability was reached by the end of the Tripos. There was no strong support for this proposal.
- Should the prose composition papers be restructured with an additional move towards the translation of sentences rather than passages? Again there was no significant support for this proposal. It was strongly felt that prose composition should be continued as an examination paper and that the process of learning that it encouraged during the year was extremely valuable.
- There was little enthusiasm for changes to Paper 6 which would make it compulsory to answer one question on Greek literature, one on Latin and two further essays drawn from different sections.

8. Any Other Business

i *Faculty Board Election*

The importance of having Undergraduate Faculty Board Representatives was stressed and it was agreed that this year's Election would be widely and clearly advertised, using posters, flyers and encouraging e-mails. Ms Wilson agreed to confirm the exact date of the Election, which is to take place in November.

ii *Reading Lists*

Mr Howe reported that there was a lot of confusion surrounding the acronyms used on reading lists. It was agreed that Mr Howe would create a link on the Library website to the L'Annee Philologique, so as to enable students to check acronyms, and that the situation would be reviewed in the future.

9. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 11 February at 1.10 pm.