

FACULTY OF CLASSICS

STUDENT-STAFF JOINT COMMITTEE

There was a meeting of the Committee at 1.10 p.m. on Monday 1st November 2010 in Room 1.04 of the Faculty of Classics.

Present: Dr Peter Agocs (Chair), Mr James Addison, Dr Rebecca Flemming, Mr Stephen Howe, Ms Maeve O'Dwyer, Mr Nick Soderberg, Mrs Carolyn Bartley (Secretary)

Apologies: Ms Jenny Hipkiss, Ms Roisin Hunter, Mr Steve Kimberley, Dr Nigel Spivey

1. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of 17th May 2010 were **approved**.

2. Matters arising

(i) 5. Strategic meeting

It was **agreed** that there should be only one informal meeting for graduates - at the beginning of Lent Term ie after the submission of the first MPhil essay.

(ii) 7. (i) IT Resources Ctte – introduction of printing charges in Michaelmas Term

The Secretary **reported** on behalf of the Computer Officer that delays in the Computing Service's schedule means that charging for student printing will not now be introduced until the start of Lent Term 2011. Initial charges will be 5p per sheet for mono printing. Graduates will be given an ex gratia allowance of £5 per term. Printing from Lapwing-connected laptops will be possible and students will have file space allocated on the Faculty's servers. Other details will be finalised and communicated closer to the start of Lent Term 2011.

3. Terms of Reference

The Committee considered the Terms of Reference and **agreed** the following change to the membership:

- Dispense with co-optation of 4 College Representatives as the interest and attendance is poor. Replace with Herodoteans President and one committee member.
- Add Graduate Bursary holders to membership.

ACTION – James Addison **agreed** to contact the Herodoteans Committee to make aware of proposal.

ACTION – Nick Soderberg **agreed** to contact current Graduate Bursary holders to make aware of proposal. Secretary to provide email addresses.

4. Election of Student Representatives to Faculty Board and Councils of the School

To be held on Tuesday 30 November 2010.

Closing of nominations 23 November.

5. Extension Project

The Secretary reported on behalf of the Administrative Officer that the outstanding items of the building project are:

1. signage on doors
2. lobby clock

These are both in hand.

6. Consultation ideas

After much discussion of a variety of ideas the following was **agreed**:

- the Suggestion Box should be resurrected and the suggestions be read and summarised by the student representatives and brought to the termly committee meeting;
- there should be one open meeting for all the student body during Lent Term using a similar format of the successful Herodoteans Open Forum in February.

ACTION: The Secretary **agreed** to place Suggestion Boxes in the Undergraduate and Graduate Common Rooms.

ACTION: Maeve O'Dwyer **agreed** to contact the current President, Francesca Kapfer-Gill, to see if an Open Forum is being organised.

7. Global Questionnaire 2009/10

The global questionnaire is to focus on the general student experience and is in the remit of the SSJC to prepare and circulate one annually. However, this did not happen for 09/10.

The Academic Secretary for Graduate Affairs **reported** that the MPhil cohort completed a questionnaire for 09/10.

It was noted that there is not currently a questionnaire for PhD students.

ACTION – The Academic Secretary for Graduate Affairs **agreed** to report any generic issues from the MPhil Questionnaire and bring ideas for a PhD Questionnaire at the next meeting.

9. Examiner's Reports

James Addison noted that the mistake on the Part 1b Greek Literature for IG exam was not reported in the examiner's report and although marks were amended to take this into account this did not help the candidates.

Both Undergraduate Representatives support the maintenance of the double-blind marking, despite examiner's thoughts to the contrary.

10. Lectrix

The Chair reported that the Classical Languages Committee has requested undergraduate feedback regarding their use of Lectrix. The Undergraduate Representatives **reported** the following:

- Overall excellent.
- More texts need to be added for Part 1b.
- There are more set texts this year than last year.
- If texts change is this considered on Lectrix?

With regard to the last point, the Chair **reported** that it does take a long time to put a new text on Lectrix which may account for the current absence of some texts.

11. Undergraduate Matters

- (i) There are no beakers in the common room and the vending machine is empty.

ACTION: The Secretary **agreed** to raise this with the Custodian.

12. Graduate Matters

- (i) The current unofficial Graduate Handbook is not on the website.
ACTION: Nick Soderberg **agreed** to contact Dr James Warren (Faculty Webmaster)

- (ii) Graduate register has now been revised for the website.
ACTION: Nick Soderberg **agreed** to contact Dr James Warren (Faculty Webmaster).

- (iii) MPhil students report that the final paper of a Greek language exam and not an essay expects too much for a student with no Greek. To achieve the required High Pass to proceed to further study they are expected to go, in one year, from zero in Greek language to 70 on the equivalent of a Part 1 paper. Concerns are that to do further study outside Cambridge the transcript would look poor at language.

The Academic Secretary for Graduate Affairs reported that this concern derives from a recent change to the structure of language required for an MPhil and confirmed that students were advised to attend either the Intensive Greek course at Bryanston or the pre-terminal course at the Faculty before starting. She also confirmed that in order to gain a High Pass a student needs a High Pass in the thesis or essay as well and not just in the language exam.

The Academic Secretary for Graduate Affairs confirmed that the new structure is being monitored.

13 Date of next meeting
Monday 14th February 2011, 1:10pm

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