

**Department of Philosophy
Staff Student Committee**

Wednesday, 8 March 2pm in RRB B81

Minutes

Present: Edward Grefenstette (chair), Eric Olson, Matt Thomas, Alex Artaud de la Ferriere, David Muhl-Richardson, Robert Logan, Peter Hughes, Joshua Forstenzer, Heather Arnold, Nick Tasker, Alex Goodson, Peter Hughes, Ben Stevenson, David Owens, George Botterill, Bob Stern. Apologies were received from Hannah Jarry-Ryan, Tom Morgan, and Anne-Marie Cox.

Matters arising from the minutes.

1. 1st year tutorials: the matter of assessment during 1st year tutorials we brought up. George Botterill proposed a scheme of presentations in full (20 credit) modules where students would receive a bonus to their semester mark between 0 and +2%, with a -5% penalty should they not attempt the presentation at all. This was well received by the students.

2. Meeting tutors prior to registration: George Botterill suggested giving 1st year single honour philosophy students the name of their tutors during the monday meeting during intro week, so that they can meet them on the same afternoon in order to seek counsel on the matter of their module choice, taking place the next day.

3. Library Matters: The department agreed to place information about the new information commons in the departmental booklet and/or make it available to students via email/web site, when it was made available.

4. E-Resources: The department agreed to put more evident links to e-resources (databases, ingenta/philosopher's index/etc...) on the website and/or course booklet.

5. Skills Workshops: The general idea of the skills workshop was given a sympathetic hearing, and it was hoped that the need for this might be satisfied by new inquiry-based modules being developed by the department; but that if these were not to be made available in the 2006/07 academic session, separate skills workshops would be considered.

6. BJUP: It was decided that the department would purchase a subscription for the British Journal for Undergraduate Philosophy, on the grounds that it might provide accessible essays on topics which should be relevant to the interests of undergraduates, as well as examples of first class papers, and an outlet for undergraduates wishing to be published. It is uncertain how the

copy will be made available, but it was suggested that the copy be placed in the Information Commons once they are open. Electronic copies could be sent to students upon request, or put up on the departmental webpage.

7. How to undergo module registration was discussed. The conclusion was that the current method seemed the most practical. It was suggested that arrangements be made to encourage students to line up prior to the beginning of registration.

8. Alex Artaud de la Ferriere suggested the organization of a 2nd hand book sale in the department. The department stated it would be glad to provide a room for such an event, while the philosophy society would be asked to set up the sale.

9. The consequences of the AUT strike were briefly discussed. It was stated that the worst case scenario at this point in time was a slight delay in the marking of essays.

10. SSC reform. Alexis noted that SSC committees were run rather differently in certain other departments, with specific members being given specific areas of focus or tasks. As the SSC is student run, it was decided that suggestions for reform would be welcome and could be applied on short notice. Alexis was given the task of gathering information concerning the options available to the committee.