

OLC Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 9, 2015

Present; Patrica Aldermann, Yanting Hu, Waldemar Wouters, Jeff Fynn Paul, Ksenai Robbe, Michelle Carmody

Observing/advising: Elizabeth van der Boer (representing Coordinators of Study)

Apologies: Crystal Ennis, Florian Volz.

1. Program Board response to last meeting's minutes.
 - a. On the issue of the student member of the Program Board – we understand the reasons given for this position not being an elected position. However we believe that especially considering the paid nature of this position, it should be advertised so that all interested students may apply.
 - i. We have been advised that this is the norm – either advertised or elected. Give the PBs statements on the undesirability of elections, we recommend that the PB commit to advertising this position in the future.
 - b. On the issue of the course Organizational Culture and Theory – there is a disagreement between the OLC and the PB on the evaluation of this course. We feel that it was significantly weak in the evaluations, and a cause for attention. The PB indicated they do not feel it needs attention, but we urge them to investigate the reasons for the negative end-of-semester evaluations.
 - i. We were advised that the general view is that many students enroll in this course but decide not to do an internship so drop out. This is one reason for the negative evaluations. We accept that this is quite possibly the case, although some investigation as to whether the course itself is the reason for the drop out would be useful.
 - c. On the issue of multiple choice exams – we strongly recommend that these are not appropriate for second year courses, and that this be communicated to the relevant people.
2. Appointment of Chair and Secretary for OLC for upcoming year.
 - a. Michelle Carmody is reappointed Chair, Florian Volz is reappointed secretary.
3. BAIS Annual report
 - a. We have heard reports of tutors being unhappy with the process of digital feedback. Since we have no details on this, we resolve to invite a tutor to

sit as a permanent observer/advisor to the OLC. This invitation will be communicated to the tutors at the next General Meeting.

- b. Blended Learning.
 - i. We would like to know more about the process of monitoring and evaluating blended learning.
 - c. Support for International Students.
 - i. It seems that there is no special requirement for support.
 - ii. Mention of international students having particular difficulty with multiple choice exams. No concrete evidence – no advice on this matter from Study Coordinators
4. Student Satisfaction Surveys
- a. Lower satisfaction perhaps not a problem – perhaps always happens with a diverse program
 - b. We will communicate more about the results of end-of-semester feedback, possibly in the form of a summary article in the BAIS newsletter.
5. Other business:
- a. The question of the ‘four pillars’ of BAIS.
 - i. Should emphasize 5 pillars, not 4 (language included with Politics, Economics, History and Culture)
 - ii. This should be more obvious within the on-line presence and the Open Days. Integrate language more into the identity of the program.
 - b. There is still concern about the culture/linguistics area – the mix still isn’t working. We understand however that this is a difficult issue to resolve, institutionally, and that some progress has been made.
 - i. There is also still an overlap between 1st year cultural studies, and Intro to Area Studies. Also with Communicating Power and other cultural studies.
 - c. More communication is needed between lecturers about the content of core courses – to prevent excessive overlap, but also to allow courses to build on each other.
 - d. Examinations
 - i. Point was made by students that having a final examination that covers the whole semester defeats the purpose of multiple assessment and of having a mid-term.
 - ii. Point was made by Study Coordinator that Global History had a high failure rate in mid-term – 45%. We hope that the PB will communicate with the Exam Board about this and inform us of the issue. This is generally outside of our area, however. Multiple assessment means that high failure rate in one exam can be compensated for in another.

Next meeting is set for 3rd week February.