

Commission Mixte Spring Semester Meeting, 11 June 2013 18h

Present (6): Deborah Madsen, Fiona Tolhurst, Valerie Fehlbaum, Linda Hinni, Paloma Lukumbi, and Bryn Skibo-Birney (secretary).

1) Changes to the Commission mixte

New members:

- Elio Correra-Fonseca: BA representative
- Mee Ji: MA representative
- Emma Depledge: corps intermédiaire representative

Outgoing members:

- Fiona Tolhurst
- Bryn Skibo-Birney

2) Staff News

Amy Brown has been appointed assistant in Medieval Literature.

Nicholas Weeks has been appointed assistant in Contemporary Literature (replacing Tom Simkins).

Bryn Skibo-Birney has been appointed assistant in American Literature (replacing Anna Iatsenko)

Erzsi Kukorelly has been appointed chargée d'enseignement, succeeding Simone Oettli.

Juliette Veille will be replacing Fiona Tolhurst for one year only.

Anna Iatsenko will be replacing Arnaud for one year while he is in Australia with an FNS grant.

Alexandre Fachard will be replacing Erzsi for one year only.

Professor Spurr will retire in summer 2014. The Rectorate has approved the position and a call for candidates is forthcoming. The candidates will meet with both staff and students (via the CM).

In the Writing Lab, Jayne Brady and Bryn Skibo-Birney are coming to the end of their monitor positions; the new monitors for 2013-14 will be Oran McKenzie and Aleida Demartin.

3) Assessment Matters

The meeting discussed the scheduling of contrôle continu tests for BA1 and BA2 in the same weeks. This issue is discussed by teachers at the beginning of every academic year. Student representatives expressed the view that during the exam sessions and especially in the later years of BA study it is usual to have more than one exam in the same week.

Students have requested that models of "good" essays be made available. One or two of the best essays each semester will be printed in *NOTED*. However, these essays will represent examples of outstanding essays and should not be seen as representing the average level of achievement.

The Department plans to revise the form of BA5 and BA6 contrôle continu assessment to ensure consistency across all seminars in terms of the number and length of the assessment tasks assigned.

4) Teaching matters

Students would like recorded lectures made available as MP3 downloads; this is the responsibility of the Informatique service. In principle, only compulsory lectures are recorded.

BA students have requested that the BA5 lecture course be extended across two semesters. Such a change would mean an annual course that could not be retaken in the following semester, as is currently the case; additionally, the lectures in an annual course would have to be reduced to one-hour to preserve the number of credits for the module. BA5 and BA6 lectures were extended from 1 to 2 hours at the request of students a few years ago.

The MA "Literary Research Methodologies" seminar was appreciated by students and the Department plans to offer this seminar regularly every autumn semester. BA classes cannot be taken

for credit as part of the MA because the degree level is different.

5) Library Matters

As part of the renovation project, 50% of the English Library collection will be moved to Seujet. Not all books will be returned to the permanent collection. There will be a regular navette between Seujet and the library.

6) AOB

All students and staff working in the Comédie building are recommended to be vigilant due to recent thefts.

The meeting heard that there is a general atmosphere of tension among BA students who feel stressed by the work demanded and the possibility of failing. BA and MA representatives should encourage such students to speak to their instructors during their reception hours. The revision of the Department's practice in relation to contrôle continu will hopefully reduce some of the uncertainty that could create anxiety among students.

Meeting ended at 20h30

Bryn Skibo-Birney and Deborah Madsen