

Minutes of the Commission Mixte, 26th April

Present:

Roberta Marangi

Gioia Cacchioli

Dr Valerie Fehlbaum

Oliva Gunduz-Lindem

Roberto Keller

Amy Brown

Professor Guillemette Bolens

Téo Verhoeven (arr. 12.39)

Meeting began: 12.30

1. The meeting approved the minutes of the previous meeting.
2. Professor Bolens noted that changes to the *Plan d'études* had been submitted to the AGM and are to be presented to the *Commission des études* of the Faculty in September.
3. The commission discussed the nominal workload hours per credit unit: it's felt that students are not generally aware that there are estimated workload hours. Of course, these estimations cannot exactly reflect individual students' needs or capacities.
4. Professor Bolens reported that the *Conseil Décanal* has discussed students desire for a week's space between end of spring semester and the start of exams. Téo Verhoven reported from the *Association des Etudiants en Lettres* that a tentative proposal to delay the start of exams by 3-4 days has been suggested to the AEL, which the students regard as not ideal but preferable to the current situation. The meeting discussed the possibility of a broader policy of using the final week of all seminar classes for assessment preparation or revision (noting that many in our department already do so, or use that week for *contrôles continus*).
5. Roberto Keller raised the fact that some seminars, which are assessed by *contrôles continus*, set the final CC as a take-home essay rather than exam. He reports that students find this somewhat easier to manage in terms of time, as well as allowing more focused work on the assessment.
6. Roberto Keller reported dissatisfaction that modules composed of either lecture + two seminars or lecture + seminar are ultimately awarded a grade on the basis of performance in only one of those courses of study. The meeting discussed the rationale for the current system, noting that all graded work must be double-marked, so additional graded work would create additional staff workload.
7. Téo Verhoven reported positive feedback, particularly that he has really enjoyed the module on intellectual history, and the fact that the department gives a full historical overview of the history of English literature, from the medieval to the contemporary.

Meeting adjourned: 13.18.

AB/GB