

Commission Mixte (CM) Minutes, May 24 2023

Present: Prof. Genoveva Puskas, Dr. Erzszi Kukorelly, Maria Peters, Holly Lavergne, Christina Zholdokova, Lorys Fioletti, Caique Cardoso

Excused: Alexandra Brites

Minutes taken by Holly Lavergne

1. Presidency:

Holly Lavergne steps down as president of the CM. Lorys Fioletti and Caique Cardoso are elected co-presidents for the 2023-2024 academic year.

2. Head of the Department:

Professor Puskas will no longer be head of the department as of July 15. Thus, Professor Swift will be in the CM for the following academic year.

3. Intellectual Discrimination:

There was a remark from a student that they had a feeling of intellectual discrimination regarding comments on their work from their instructor. They felt an uncomfortable attitude on the part of their instructor regarding the work they had submitted and did not feel that they got constructive feedback on their work.

A reminder should be sent to staff members that comments on students' work need to be substantive and must identify specific problems, especially when it comes to analysis, interpretation, and contextualization. Students deserve consideration and an important element of this is discussion.

The importance of written comments was also discussed. Even when instructors have oral discussions with students, it is useful to follow up with an email so that there is a written trace of what has been discussed and so that students can make improvements based on this advice.

It would be useful for written exams to have written feedback as well. One member suggested the possibility of using the Moodle platform for this type of feedback, which is used by some instructors for feedback on papers but could be used more often. In particular, it would be useful for Writing Lab monitors to have access to written feedback from instructors for written exams, as when students come to consult an exam in the Writing Lab and there is no written feedback, it is more difficult to help students.

It is important to encourage students that feel uncomfortable in any way to come talk to representatives of the CM.