

Minutes of the *Commission Mixte* Autumn Semester Meeting
Friday 11 December 2015, 14.15

Present: Guillemette Bolens, Valerie Fehlbaum, Amy Brown, Olivia Lindem, Roberto Keller, Gioia Cacchioli, Roberta Marangi.

Absent: Ghada Ben Saïd

1) Staff News:

- Professor Deborah Madsen is on sabbatical leave during the spring semester.
- Kimberly Frohreich's contract ends this semester. Alexandre Fachard will teach her AT class as a *suppléant* in the spring, since it is not planned to fill the post of American assistant until September 2016.
- Audrey Cerfon, who teaches comparative literature, will be back from her FNS research leave in the spring semester.
- A new assistant in Modern English Literature, Patrick Jones, will join us in the spring semester.
- Tabea Ihsane has been granted a *Subside Tremplin* during the spring semester. Consequently her BA2 practical language classes will be taught by Alexandre Fachard as a *suppléant*, and her BA2 linguistics groups will be taught by Tomislav Socanac as a *suppléant*.

2) Suggestions and problems:

- Some students feel that the requirements for BA1 are too high. However, their remarks are not very precise, as they mainly stress a difference between BA1 and BA2 readers in terms of content and organisation. Obviously, it is not possible to give the same kind of reader in the two courses, as they are substantially different in their purpose and material.
- It has been suggested that, for introductory courses such as BA1 and BA2, teachers may help students' note-taking by stressing the central aspects that must be remembered.
- Concerning attestations, it would be helpful if teachers could make their personal expectations relative to the structure of papers more explicit.
- Some students would like the pace of some courses to be a little slower, so that they can take notes more efficiently.
- The pros and cons of taping courses were discussed.
- The idea was raised to validate BA7 by means of a 'petit mémoire', i.e., a 30-40 page essay, written under the guidance of a teacher, independently of seminars on offer.
- The ongoing strike was discussed. G. Bolens said that staff and students should feel free to decide for themselves, without pressure one way or another.