

Minutes of the *Commission Mixte* - Spring Semester Meeting
Friday 13 May 2016, 14.00

Present: Guillemette Bolens, Amy Brown, Ghada Ben Saïd, Olivia Lindem, Gioia Cacchioli, Roberta Marangi,

Absent: Valerie Fehlbaum, Roberto Keller

Suggestions and Problems:

- The concern students brought up at the last meeting about the pace of lecture courses was addressed and it was pointed out that the handout for the BA5 lecture course spells out the reason and scope for it:

This lecture course is designed to be among other things an exercise in advanced listening comprehension, a skill that we consider essential for all students in English, including for your professional future. This is the chief reason why the lectures are not recorded and why the PowerPoint slides are not meant to provide a synthesis of what we say. The lectures expose you to orally delivered texts of reasonable complexity, and it is your task to listen to, take notes about, and digest their content. Students who struggle to do so need to develop their listening comprehension and note-taking skills. For instructions on how to do so, we recommend you visit the following website: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~acskills/success/notes.html>. In particular, we advise you to look at the handouts labelled “Taking Lecture Notes” and “The Cornell Note Taking System”; however, the other sections are interesting too.

- This semester, students have expressed their wish to study creative writing. They should contact Bryn Skibo-Birney, who has started organizing creative writing meetings and who is the editor of *Noted*.
- In order to facilitate and encourage interactions between MA students and PhD students, it has been suggested that informal meetings could be organized, beginning next semester. Amy Brown and Olivia Lindem have offered to start this tradition by hosting the first meeting next September.
- Students think that an official Facebook page for the English Department would be a useful means of communication between department and students, and an effective way of showing the activities of the department to prospective students and potential SEMP/Exchange students.
- Students’ concern about enforcement of attendance through the use of the ‘attendance sheet’ was duly discussed.

- Students also brought forth three points concerning the Spring semester: 1) the deadline for handing in graded papers and attestations to teachers, 2) the exam schedule, announced very close to the actual dates of exams, and 3) their need for a week off between the end of classes and the beginning of the exam session so as to maximise their exam preparation.

The meeting ended at 15:23

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