

Minutes of the Commission Mixte Autumn Semester Meeting
Tuesday 17 February 2015, 18h

Present: Deborah Madsen, Valerie Fehlbaum, Amy Brown, Linda Hinni, Elio Fonseca, Gioia Cacchioli, Anne-Laure Danville, Mee Ji (arrived 19:10)

1) Staff news:

Simon Swift, who replaces David Spurr, is starting this semester and will teach an MA seminar as a *chargé de cours suppléant*. He will take up the post of Associate Professor of Modern English Literature at the rentrée 2015.

Kimberly Frohreich is currently on maternity leave and her mandate will be extended to January 2016. There will be a new assistant in the American Literature domain in 2016.

2) Assessment / *Plan d'études* changes:

Changes in the MA *plan d'études*: under the old *plan d'études* students had to take two seminars in the same domain to make a module. Under the new *plan d'études*, a module comprises either two linguistics seminars OR two literature seminars, which is much easier for everyone.

Concerning the change in BA1 assessment decided at the last meeting of the *Commission mixte*: any student who withdraws from English will be asked not only why they are leaving (as is currently the case) but whether their performance in the first semester *contrôle continu* tests has influenced their departure from the English Department.

The relatively high rate of students who withdraw in the course of the first year was discussed. It was suggested that the students who guide high-school students visiting the department through the *programme boussole*, as well as the instructors who welcome those students, should place even greater stress on the fact that the English Department offers courses in linguistics and literary analysis, and does not replace a language school.

Seminar and course requirements: in BA5 and BA6 are comprised of regular attendance, completing the assigned weekly reading, making an oral presentation, and the mid-semester test. The *Règlement d'études de la Faculté des lettres* does not address the issue of attendance. However, class details will be amended to specify that "active participation" is required of all students (and such participation is de facto impossible if students do not attend classes regularly).

Contrôle continu and attestation assessment: the *Commission mixte* heard that students can change assessment mode from *contrôle continu* to attestation relatively simply following the mid-semester test; however, it is practically impossible to change from attestation assessment to *contrôle continu* following the test at the end of the seminar.

3) Suggestions and problems

It was suggested that students who are advanced in their degree programme could assist students finishing the first year to plan their future classes by attending the final AT meetings of the year.

No problems were raised for discussion, by BA or MA students.

We received many positive comments about the *Shakespeare in Performance* trip and students are constantly asking whether it will be organised again! However, the main reason why the department cannot easily offer this trip every year is the very small amount of funding we receive from the university.

End of the meeting: 20:20

EF/DM