STUDENT ASSESSMENT OF MODULES AND TEACHING 2013-14
REPORT TO SSLC AND ANNUAL MONITORING COMMITTEES

DEPARTMENT/TEACHING UNIT: School of Philosophy & Art History

UNDERGRADUATE √ POSTGRADUATE (tick as applicable)

1. Method(s) of Assessment
   A uniform, School-wide questionnaire was employed which was designed, with student input, so that the completed questionnaires could be scanned centrally.

2. Outcomes of the Process
   Overall the scores indicate a high level of student satisfaction with SPAH UG modules. In Philosophy UG modules, the overall mean score was 4.4, slightly up from the previous year’s result of 4.3. In Art History the overall mean in UG modules was 4.5, up from 4.3 in the previous year. Looking across all modules in the School, more that 60% were rated at 4.5 or above.

   Particularly worthy of note is the rating of PY428, Dr Jörg Schaub’s highly praised module on Medical Ethics, which was rated at 4.7.

   No module in the School received an overall mean score lower than 4.0. This is a remarkable accomplishment, reflecting the hard work, dedication and talent of our teaching cohort.

   There were a smattering of scores on particular questions that fell below the 4.0 mark. The two lowest single scores were on Question 5 (which concerns the clarity of marking criteria). PY111 (Introduction to Philosophy) scored 3.5 on this question and PY429 (Capitalism and its Critics), scored at 3.6.

   I am pleased to report that the actions taken following last year’s survey with regard to PY431 were indeed effective. This module was revised two years ago and in 2012-13 received an overall SAMT rating below 4.0. In light of feedback the module was revised for 2013-14, with a marked improvement: 4.4 mean, and 4.3 on the issue of understanding the lecturer’s presentations.

   In Art History, no module scored lower than 4.3! The lowest response to any individual question was 3.8. It is clear that the Art History staff continue to deliver a very high standard of student satisfaction to our students.

3. Action
   Action 1: Module Leader for PY111 to be encouraged to review marking criteria with first year students.
   Action 2: Implement the new SAMT survey methodology so as to survey a larger percentage of SPAH modules.

4. General Comments
   None.

Head of School’s Signature: Wayne Martin (Head until Aug 2014)
Date: 02.10.2014
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1. Method(s) of Assessment

A uniform, Department-wide questionnaire was employed which was designed, with student input, so that the completed questionnaires could be scanned centrally.

2. Outcomes of the Process

Overall the scores indicate a high level of student satisfaction with SPAH PGT modules. The mean in Philosophy PGT modules was 4.6, down very slightly from last year's high of 4.7, but higher than the three year average of 4.5. The mean rating in Art History PGT modules was 5.0.

Two results are particularly worth noting in Philosophy. The highest overall PGT rating in Philosophy was for PY935: Heidegger, which received a mean rating of 4.8, and a score of 5.0 on the question: “The lecturer has been good at explaining the subject matter.” The instructor for this module was our newly appointed senior colleague, Dr Irene McMullin. The second highest result at the PGT level was Dr Jörg Schaub’s module on the The Frankfurt School and Critical Theory (PY948), which received a mean score of 4.7.

In Art History, only one PGT module was surveyed: PY934, taught by Dr Lisa Wade, which received a 5.0 mean rating.

Based on the results of these surveys, it is safe to say that SPAH PG teaching is delivering a very high degree of student satisfaction!

3. Action

Action 1: Implement the new SAMT survey methodology so as to survey a larger percentage of SPAH modules.

4. General Comments

None.

Head of School’s Signature: Wayne Martin  (Head until Aug 2014)
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