

PART 1 – FACHRAT MATS
(27.01.2015; 9am until 10am)

Present: Joachim Kurtz (chair), Daniel Münster, Cathrine Bublatzky, Jule Nowoitnick (minutes), Oliver Lamers, Brigitte Berger-Goeken, Man Hon Lam, Henrike Hoffmann, Elisabeth Meyer

Excused: Harald Fuess, Christiane Brosius

>> Fachrat is in quorum

TOP 1 Establishment of the MATS Fachrat

- Kurtz informs the members about the role of the Fachrat (study programme council) within the university structure and about the specific responsibilities:
 - o If necessary adapt Terms and Regulations of Admission and Exam, Modulhandbuch (overview of modules)
 - o Plan the course offering
 - o Allocate available funds
 - o Inform student body and staff about decisions
- Lamers explains that from 2017 onwards the MATS will receive university funds per graduated student.
- The Fachrat meets at least once at the beginning of every term to be able to also coordinate the teaching of the coming term.
 - > against: 0; abstentions: 0; in favor: 9
- The meetings of the Fachrat will generally be public; upon request sensitive topics may be discussed in a non-public section of the meeting.
 - > against: 0; abstentions: 0; in favor: 9
- The speaker of the Fachrat will coordinate with the Studienkommission (curriculum council) and the Studiendekan (dean of studies) of the Faculty of Philosophy.
- Minutes of the discussion results as well as a list of the Fachrat members will be made available publically on the MATS website.
 - > against: 0; abstentions: 0; in favor: 9

TOP 2 Dissolving of MATS Committee

- As the Fachrat could only be elected in this winter term, the Cluster's directorate established the MATS Committee to start the internal evaluation of the programme; the committee consisted of members of all status groups.
- As officially elected body the Fachrat will continue this work thus disbanding the committee whose members are explicitly invited to participate as guests in future meetings.
 - > against: 0; abstentions: 0; in favor: 9
- MATS committee will be informed in the following meeting for which the Fachrat will stay.

TOP 3 Q+Ampelverfahren

- Nowoitnick informs the Fachrat about the ongoing Q+Ampelverfahren for the MATS.
- The meeting with the evaluation board of the university will be on 22 June 2015, 9-11am.
- In preparation for this as well as in continuation of the ongoing internal evaluation of the MATS, the Fachrat – or an assigned sub-committee – will start revising the Modulhandbuch; submission to faculty only after the feedback from the Q+Ampel could be integrated as well.
 - > against: 0; abstentions: 0; in favor: 9

- To be discussed in detail in the next meeting; members of the Fachrat will get feedback from their status group on quality of teaching.

TOP 4 Varia

- Meyer asks about the course credits, i.e. the decision to only have 7 credits for full seminars made by the committee. > moved into following meeting

PART 2 – FACHRAT & MATS COMMITTEE

(27.01.2015; 10am-11am)

Present: Joseph Maran (chair), Joachim Kurtz, Daniel Münster, Cathrine Bublatzky, Jule Nowoitnick (minutes), Oliver Lamers, Brigitte Berger-Goeken, Man Hon Lam, Henrike Hoffmann, Elisabeth Meyer; committee members/guests: Birgit Kellner, Christian Förster, Daniel König
Excused: Harald Fuess, Christiane Brosius; committee member: Monica Juneja

TOP 1 Report on Fachrat and Disbandment of Committee (JK)

- Kurtz informs the committee about the Fachrat meeting and the disbandment of the MATS committee; its members are invited to still engage in the discussion.

TOP 2 Q+Ampelverfahren

- Nowoitnick reports on the ongoing Q+Ampelverfahren.
- Maran explains that review/report by the evaluation board to be expected by April/May to prepare for the meeting on 22 June; for this meeting the Fachrats send representatives; meeting ends with discussion only with student representatives.

TOP 3 General Contents and Aims of the Programme

- Student representatives explain that students may feel lost and intimidated to jump into new disciplinary/methodological fields; a clearer introduction into foci and disciplinary methods is needed.
- Heterogeneity of student body challenges course design by lecturers (different language skills...); Bublatzky asks for student feedback on interdisciplinary classes – students in favor.
- Possible ways to incorporate methodological training into the programme (e.g. block seminars on different methods) as well as courses introducing students to foci are discussed.
- A concrete format, the line between method and research oriented teaching, the integration into overall study plan (1st oder 2nd term?) and the balance between challenging the students but not asking too much to be discussed further.
- Staff agrees that the main qualification goal of the MATS is academia; this needs to be communicated more clearly to (prospective) students – web text is being rewritten.
- Münster proposes MATS as first two years of grad school which would indeed require intensive methodological training.
- Student representatives mention a perceived discrepancy between their expectations and the reality of the programme – web texts are being clarified at the moment; new ZO is supposed to encourage applicants to engage further before application.

- Maran explains that the lack of social sciences and Europe is a Cluster wide concern with two main reasons: English language teaching still not common for German humanities/social sciences and culturally oriented social sciences not that present in Heidelberg.
- Kurtz explains that the differing views on 'transculturality' in some classes are due to different understandings within the staff, especially with assigned lecturers.

TOP 4 Structure of the Programme

- Committee members explain decision for 7 credits for seminars without possible reduction (students need to practice presenting and writing).
- Münster points out that cases like a student failing to submit a term paper (failed class? Reduced credits?) need to be clarified.

TOP 5 Agenda for next meeting

- To be held end of April/beginning of May 2015
- Topics:
 - o Course offering winter term
 - o Revision of the Modulhandbuch (members will familiarize themselves in advance)
 - o Incorporation of method oriented teaching
 - o Definition of MATS as research-based and maybe also humanity based programme