

## MEETING MATS FACHRAT

14.10.2015, 9:00 – 11:00

Present: Harald Fuess (speaker); Christiane Brosius; Joachim Kurtz; Daniel Münster; Cathrine Bublitzky; Jule Nowoitnick (minutes); Oliver Lamers; Brigitte Berger-Goeken; Henrike Hoffmann  
Excused: Elisabeth Meyer; Man Hon Lam  
Guests: Daniel König; Christian Förster

### Top 1 Opening of the Session

- Harald Fuess welcomes the Fachrat members and the guests and shortly introduces the circulated agenda.
- The Fachrat is in quorum.

### Top 2 Examination Board

- With the newly confirmed Terms and Regulations of Examination, the MATS will again have its own examination board.
- Harald Fuess suggests the following members: **Monica Juneja (chairwoman), Daniel König, Steven Ivings + one student representative.**
- After a discussion whether a mixed representation by the faculties would be advantageous the Fachrat **unanimously (15/0/0) accepts the suggested candidates.**
- The student representatives are asked to email the name of their candidate to Jule Nowoitnick by Nov 2.
- The complete list of names will be forwarded to Oliver Lamers for confirmation by the GKTS.

### Top 3 Revision of the Terms and Regulations of Examination and Module Descriptions

**A: Currently, students must register their thesis within two weeks of their last Schein's date. It is suggested to instead establish two fixed registration dates (15.4. & 15.10.) per annum.**

- The Fachrat discusses the pros (aim to increase the student degree completion rate within the regular two years, easier distribution of supervisory roles, budgeting of grading time for supervisors and examination office; easier structure; writing in cohorts) and cons (increased registration stress; studies time automatically extends by one term when deadline is ignored).
- The Members decide **against the suggestion (4/9/2).**
- The "xy week after"-rule remains but the Fachrat is in favour of an extension **from two to four weeks if that is legally possible.**
- **Addendum Fuess:** According to the university's legal department a four week period would only be possible if we also change the course grade submission deadlines to 31 March and 30 September because otherwise students cannot graduate within the regular two years.
- **B: It is suggested that the final oral examination is abolished.**
- The first round of voting is undecided (4/4/7).
- The Fachrat agrees that rhetorical skills are important for an academic but also non-academic career. The members discuss whether oral examinations could be integrated in individual courses.
- In a second round of voting the Fachrat **decides against the suggestion (4/9/2);** the final oral examination will remain and will be adjusted with the new PO.

- A suggestion regarding the examiners of the oral exam is accepted unanimously (15/0/0): no longer the first supervisor of the master thesis has to chair the oral exam but it can be conducted by one of the two readers or a HCTS professor.
- Jule Nowoitnick explains that the proposed new PO/study plan includes the possibility of taking the oral exam already in the 3<sup>rd</sup> term if most modules (see PO) have been completed; in addition, the new PO suggests that the oral exam is worth 4 credit points.
- C: The new PO will include a double degree option.**
- Harald Fuess explains that the text is kept general to allow the inclusion of other partners in the future without the need to revise the PO again.
- It is decided not to discuss at this point whether such a double degree requires one or two terms at the partner university; this shall be regulated through the contract with the partner.
- The Fachrat **unanimously (15/0/0) accepts** the suggested inclusion of a double degree option.
- **D: Seminars in the MATS will no longer count 7 but 8 credit points.**
- Harald Fuess and Jule Nowoitnick explain that this will ensure easier administration within the MATS but especially for imports as no other institute works with 7 credit points.
- The Fachrat **unanimously (15/0/0) votes in favour** of the suggestion.
- According to the suggested new **study plan for minors** there would be also the option of a seminar with 6 CP. To not have to introduce such a third option, it is **decided unanimously (15/0/0)** that the Introduction tutorial will not be mandatory for students minoring in TS. They are invited to attend but cannot count the class towards their minor which instead will consist of: **Introduction (4CP) + 2 seminars (8+8CP) = 20CP.**
- The Fachrat voices their concern over the additional administrative work for students, lecturers and coordination that is created through the different counting systems in the different institutes which necessitate constant negotiation and complicate co-teaching across disciplines immensely. The Fachrat would welcome a universal rule for all study programmes.
- **Further procedure:** Jule Nowoitnick will incorporate the decisions in a revised version of the Terms and Regulations of Examination which will be circulated for a final decision by the Fachrat members.
- Upon this basis the Module Descriptions will be revised to be discussed in another meeting of the Fachrat this year.
- Both the revised PO and the Module Descriptions will have to be confirmed by the GKTS (30 November) before they go into the Faculty of Philosophy. Jule Nowoitnick will find out the correct order of institutions and their deadlines.

#### **Top 4 Cooperation with the Department for Romance Studies**

- The Fachrat is unanimously (15/0/0) in favour of this cooperation if a faculty member of the Romance Studies department will, in exchange, (a) offer one English language class with a transcultural perspective at least once per academic year and (b) open their classes to MATS students with the necessary language skills.
- Addendum Fuess: The Romance Studies department agreed.
- Harald Fuess is asked to make sure that the department is aware that the Romanic world is not a regional focus within the MATS.

#### **Top 5 Finances**

- Jule Nowoitnick explains that the remaining quality funds (current balance of funds approx. 40,000 EUR) will have to be spent by Dec 2016; there will be follow-up funds per terms of approx. half the sum of the quality funds.
- The Fachrat **unanimously (15/0/0) decides to offer Zara Barlas an extension** of her contract as lecturer for Academic Writing in English for the summer term 2016.
- For Winter Semester 2016/17 onwards Harald Fuess will inquire with our partner institutes whether it would be possible to pool resources to offer this important part of academic training beyond next year.
- From now on the Fachrat will be the body to decide upon the allocation of **teaching assignments resources and personnel**.
- Proposals for summer semester 2016 must be sent to Jule Nowoitnick by October 31 and include the following: cv and course description by the lecturer; accompanying statement by the 'recruiting' faculty member in the MATS on how the course will complement the regular course offering.