

Minutes of the MATS-Fachrat's meeting

(9 May 2019, summer semester 2019)

4.00-5.22pm, HCTS room 400.02.21

members of the MATS-Fachrat present: Prof. Christiane Brosius, Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky, Sharon Chi, Prof. Harald Fuess, Dr. Martin Hofmann, Prof. Joachim Kurtz, Radhka Malkar, Dr. Takuma Melber, Emily Tsui Ngai Kai and as a guest Dr. Oliver Lamers (until 4.25pm)

TOPICS

- 01.) teaching load and equal opportunities office
 - 02.) minutes of the last Fachrat's meeting
 - 03.) MATS-syllabus (winter semester 2019/20)
 - 04.) applications for teaching assignments and further funding
 - 05.) MATS-Career Day
 - 06.) study abroad
 - 07.) Varia
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TOPIC 1

Lamers informs about the teaching load of the MATS-teaching staff after the end of the Cluster of Excellence funding-period/from winter semester 2019/20 on:

- To be clarified but Lamers is expecting a teaching load of 9 SWS for professors and 4 SWS for assistants. Oliver will get in touch with the

respective teaching staff (on an individual basis) as soon as he has detailed information.

Bublitzky asks: Is the teaching fixed to the MATS? Lamers: No, it is fixed to the Faculty. Usually the teaching load should be fulfilled regularly meaning semesterwise.

Lamers points to rumors of racial and sexual harassment issues circulating amongst the South Asia Institute of Heidelberg University at the moment.

Lamers explains: If a student wants to talk with us about such kind of issues such as sexual harassment, stalking etc we are obliged to forward this information further to above – meaning this wouldn't be a confidential talk. For this reason, students should contact the equal opportunities office, mainly Dr. Agnes Speck (+ Prof. Katja Patzel-Mattern and others). Go to the police to file a legal case if it is a serious/clear/legal case. No names are to be made public. It is escalating at other institutes and this is something what must be avoided at the HCTS. False allegation of harassment is also a concern!

Malkar, Chi and Bublitzky are giving some information about the rumours concerning the aforementioned serious accusation of sexual harassment circulating amongst the SAIs student body at the moment. Chi and Malkar emphasize that there is a lack of awareness what the official path for students for such kind of issues might be.

Decision of the MATS-Fachrat: More information (around 30 minutes) should be given at the MATS-orientation days about where to go if it clashes amongst our international students, to raise the awareness, to draw attention to the topic of safety etc. A member of the equality opportunities office to be invited to the next MATS-orientation days to draw attention to this and to give information in a proper manner. Additionally attention should be drawn to the procedure of all these things (what to do in cases of sexual harassment etc) and the equality opportunities office in particular by email.

Lamers leaves the meeting at 4.25pm.

TOPIC 2

Minutes of the last Fachrat's meeting (14 January 2019) duly noted.

TOPIC 3

Fuess informs that he will change the title of his course to "food and drink in Asia".

Fuess asks if one of Prof. Michael Radich's classes shouldn't be listed as a KBR introductory seminar? Kurtz explains that he was already in close contact with Radich and they agreed that only one KBR-Intro Course will be necessary in the upcoming winter semester – which will be a course of Kurtz.

Kurtz and Radich will give the MATS-Kolloquium.

MATS re-confirm a decision made in the past that generally professors should give the intro seminars. Melber will ask Juneja if one of her classes can become a VMC-intro seminar.

TOPIC 4

Decisions on diverse applications:

- Application of an application of Prof. Christiane Brosius to fund the travel and accommodation costs for Sheba Chhachi: up to 260 EURO (unanimously)
- Discussion about the application of Prof. Monica Juneja to fund an excursion to Vienna: Malkar asks if Prof Juneja couldn't limit her class to 15 students and if it is right that the MATS-programme will pay for Non-MATS students? Kurtz emphasizes: such kind of questions should in the future better be discussed in a "CATS-Fachrat".
Decision of the MATS-Fachrat: the funding of Juneja's excursion is up to 3000 Euro (unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Franz-Karl Ehrhard (1500 EURO, unanimously)

- Teaching assignment for Sophie Roche (unpaid, unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Amelia Bonea (1500 EURO, unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Nadine Plachta (1500 Euro, unanimously)
- Teaching assignment for Carsten Wergin (2500 Euro, unanimously)
- Melber will organize the call for applications for the tutor positions (Intro to Transcultural Studies lecture) and hire two persons who can teach the basic research skills classes on a HiWi contract bases (unanimously)
- Discussion about the Academic Writing Class: Tsui explains that according to many fellow MATS-students the Academic Writing Classes given by O’Riagain are/were not very helpful. Melber draws attention to the fact that – to his knowledge – the majority of the current Academic Writing class are no MATS-students. The Fachrat discusses if something else equivalent to the “classic” Academic Writing Course could be given. The student representatives suggest a so-called “writing doctor´ system” on a HiWi contract bases. Decision: For now Melber should try to fill the academic writing position as usual (preferable on a HiWi contract basis – to June/July).

TOPIC 5

Melber informs that the MATS-Career Day organized by the Career Service of Heidelberg University (Dr. Kristina Biebricher) will take place on 7 June 2019, 9am-5pm, HCTS room 400.02.12. Melber will attend the Career Day and report about it at the next Fachrat’s meeting. Melber and the students are underlining that there is actually a high demand and desire for events on career perspectives on the MATS students’ side.

The MATS-Fachrat makes the decision to organize a further MATS-Career Day in the same next semester

TOPIC 6

Fuess will together with his administrative assistant Nora Bartels offer an information session about study abroad and PhD opportunities on 3 July 2019.

As student representative gives Tsui feedback on the current study exchange procedure. Among other things Tsui mentions:

- Taiwan National University was listed as study abroad opportunity but it was actually not offered.
- Concerning Yale students are complaining lots of miscommunication and the length of the study abroad
- Concerning the ERASMUS exchange opportunities was no administrative guidance.

Suggestions from the MATS-students: a student assistant could assist Fuess and Bartels to fulfill the administrative workload in particular. Moreover, are the MATS students drawing attention to the Sinology department which is handling it better. Maybe it would make sense to “outsource” some administrative work? The students are emphasizing that more information sessions after the acceptance of the students is highly needed.

Fuess responses to Tsui and mentions aspects which are causing problems in the current study abroad procedure: the MATS-description of modules, no HiWi-money for student exchange matters, requirements of the DAAD etc

Fuess and the MATS student representatives agree on arranging a separate meeting to talk about how to improve the student exchange procedure.

TOPIC 6

no further points