

Minutes of the Fachrat Meeting, 8th November 2017

Members present: Prof. Fuess, Prof. Kurtz, Prof. Brosius, Dr. Bublatzky, Dr. Hofmann, Dr. Melber, Ms Berger-Göken, Mr. Gallenkamp, Iris Böttcher, Ekaterina Kalugina, Ms. Bartels (minutes secretary)

TOPIC 1 Discussion of the Minutes of the last Fachrat's meeting

TOPIC 2 Overview about the Development of the MATS programme

- The MATS is one of the biggest master programmes in the humanities of Heidelberg University
- Drop out has declined (4%).
- Only 10% of our students finish in 2 years. Discussion about the possible reasons for this:
 - Struggles with study visa. Late arrival leads to waste of first semester especially for students from China, India and Turkey (10-15% of each semester)
 - Mobility window is not congruent with semester beginnings at other universities; students can not complete the classes in the semester before
 - Students without a clear research goal sometimes change their study focus and some of their credit points go lost
 - MA-thesis takes too long – maybe a more structured colloquium or an additional class to accompany thesis writing would be helpful in this regard
 - It takes time for the students to structure themselves inside the MATS-structure
 - Communication Problems with the Professors – students have problems choosing a supervisor, because it needs to be a full Professor, but they were taking many classes offered by non-professors (at the beginning of this winter semester the MATS-office was emphasizing this particular point during the orientation days). One further problem: some students protested that some of the potential supervisors were just never answering on requesting emails. Some professors are hard to contact. The communication between students and professors has to be improved.

TOPIC 3 Finances and Teaching Assignments

- All estimated costs were approved, including:
 - one class of Academic Writing in English (1500 Euro)
 - one teaching assignment for Etmüller (1500/1800 Euro, confirmed under the condition that she is still available)
 - one teaching assignment for Dr. Sophie Roche (2500 Euro)
 - one guest lecture in the seminar of Daniel Münster (504 Euro)
 - two excursions (Melber (252 Euro) and Trede (964 Euro))
 - a fund for particular MATS-teaching material (500 Euro)
- Decision: 80 Euro is enough per night instead of 100 Euro for the Guesthouse
- suggestion for the upcoming winter semester: the MATS-programme could offer its own language classes, e.g. an intermediate Japanese language class (8 hours per week)
- suggestion for upcoming semesters on students request: a class on the definition of “Transculturality” and the transcultural approach; one result: Prof. Fuess will teach a reading class on transcultural theories and transculturality in the summer semester 2018

- Prof. Brosius will teach the MATS-Colloquium in the summer semester 2018, Prof. Fuess semester will teach the MATS-Colloquium in the winter semester 2018/19 (tentatively)
- 3 Japanese professors (Sanno, Sato and Wada) will teach for two months each in the summer semester 2018 (financed by DAAD / Toshiba Foundation)
- Decision: Not all courses are open to all modules. Courses in the winter semesters will be handled much more restrictively than courses in the summer semesters.
- Korean Language Classes in every semester
- A class on the European Union in one of the next semesters would be desirable (teaching assignment for a lecturer from outside)
- **All decisions were made unanimously.**

TOPIC 4 - Evaluation

- Evaluation papers were revised (Fuess, Melber, Nowoitnick) and approved
- Two evaluations will take place in the winter semester 2017/18:
 - 1.) online evaluation on the MATS study programme in December 2017. All MATSs-students will be informed via the MATS-students mailing list to evaluate the MATS study programme.
 - 2.) as every semester: regular evaluation of each individual course (paper based). This evaluation will take place in January 2018.

The results will be discussed in the next Fachrat

- Prüfungsausschuss: Martin Hoffmann instead of Steve
- **All decisions were made unanimously.**

TOPIC 5 – Exchange with Yale University

- One semester exchange, free of fees, MA and PhD Students of Heidelberg University (in total 3 persons)
- Yale professors can come to HD, mobility costs are covered
- Harald Fuess has applied for DAAD funding
- Best time slot is after 2 semesters in HD
- Tentative aim for later negotiations: recognizing an entire year (60 credit points?) could be part of our MATS programme, maybe in a form of a joint degree. To be discussed in the future. At first we have to establish a regular one-semester exchange with Yale University

TOPIC 6 – Miscellaneous

- The next meeting of the Fachrat should take place at the beginning of May 2018

Addition to the Fachrat's meeting of 8 November 2017

Via email in November 2017: the members of the MATS Fachrat made the decision to accept the application for one teaching assignment of Sophie Roche (2500 Euro)

Via email in December 2017: the MATS-Fachrat accepted Prof. Juneja's application for an additional funding (1000 Euro) of her excursion in the Winter Semester 2017/18 (with change from Düsseldorf to Dresden). Total funding for the excursion: 3000 Euro.

Via email in December 2017: the MATS-Fachrat accepted the MATS-Fachschaft's application for additional funding (up to 1760 Euro) for a student conference, which will take place in April/May 2018.