

## **Minutes of the MATS-Fachrat's meeting (January 14<sup>th</sup> 2019/winter semester 2018/19); 9.00–10.20am; KJC room 221**

MATS-Fachrat's members present: Sophie Bisping, Brigitte Berger-Goeken, Prof. Christiane Brosius, Dr. Christine Bublatzky, Sharon Chi, Prof. Harald Fuess, Dr. Martin Hofman, Prof. Joachim Kurtz, Dr. Takuma Melber

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### TOPIC 1

Minutes of the last MATS-Fachrat's meeting (05 November 2018) duly noted

### TOPIC 2

Approval for applications for teaching assignments and for an application for co-funding a position of a Korean studies lecturer:

- unpaid teaching assignment for Dr. Lorenzo Andolfatto (unanimously)
- teaching assignment for Dr. Amelia Bonea (1500 EURO) (unanimously)
- approval to co-fund the position of a Korean studies lecturer: Fuess informs that 60 000 EURO are needed to finance the position for three years; he negotiated with the ZO and the rectorate to receive 15 000 EURO from the ZO and 30 000 from the rectorate; 15 000 EURO are needed from the HCTS

under the aforementioned condition unanimous approval to co-fund the position with 5000 EURO per year (3 years), what means 2500 EURO per semester from winter semester 2019/20 on

- raising general questions about the funding and the budget raised; the professors inform that such question will be discussed in a CATS-retreat; according to them will amongst other funding questions the funding of the library and a Tibetan language teacher position be addressed

### TOPIC 3

Fuess gives information about the study abroad/study exchange procedure (i.a. information about activities, funding of scholarships, distribution of work). The information given is mainly included in the study abroad information sheet, too (see attachment).

Fuess emphasizes that the DAAD is having an interest that MATS student going abroad will graduate in time! Fuess highlights further "scholarships are running out!": for now Yale is safe with 3 scholarships for a further year. But Yale University is focusing more on doctoral students/future academics than regular MA students. Concerning the Joint degree program Kyoto-Heidelberg has Fuess submitted a grant application to the DAAD. The application's result is expected in March/April 2019. In case of no approval by the DAAD will Fuess focus on JASSO scholarships (offered by the Japanese Ministry of education/Monbusho scholarship) as equivalent. Fuess explains further: Tokyo University rejected one application

of us last year. Tokyo has in the main a social science interest and is in consequence focusing on students of the social sciences accordingly.

According to Fuess are the two places at SOAS the most competitive ones: usually one is for students of art history, the second one usually given to a Chinese Studies student.

Concerning the Joint Degree Program with Kyoto University Fuess explains as follows: now there are enough applicants on the Kyoto side for 5 places; last year were 15 students of Heidelberg University interested in Kyoto (JD and normal exchange study abroad) which is quite good. In the respective JD council is a successor to Prof. Christian Förster needed.

Maybe Prof. Michael Radich will succeed him.

The study exchange with Venice is at the moment disbalanced: Venice is much broader in Asian Studies. In financial terms is the relationship in disbalance, too. Our students are receiving Italian subsidies but Heidelberg does not pay vice versa. Fuess is looking for a solution.

Fuess informs about the first PhD of the Heidelberg/Tohoku exchange.

Pre-selection:

The study exchange selection committee (Prof. Harald Fuess, Prof. Joachim Kurtz, Dr. Cathrine Bublatzky, Dr. Takahiro Yamamoto) will hold a meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> at 11am in the directorate. Questions to address will be on the selection procedure and the administration (Fuess emphasizes that it takes time to put together all applications).

#### TOPIC 4

Melber informs briefly that the submitted evaluation report (SoSe 2018) was given approval by Heidelberg University's quality management representative Dr. Kai Töpfer.

#### TOPIC 5

During the lecture-free period will the election of the MATS-Fachrat (professors, "Mittelbau" and administrative staff) take place. Melber is in contact with the StuRa to organize the election and will inform all teaching and administrative staff of the MATS via email.

#### TOPIC 6

Following TOPIC5 and emphasizing that career orientation was the only weak point of the evaluation raises Melber the question if we shouldn't organize a MATS-career orientation event – and if so how to organize it: To organize it ourselves or together with Heidelberg University's Career Service (Dr. Kristina Biebricher)? Melber is already in contact with Biebricher who is offering a career day designed for MATS students in particular as one day-event. Such a career day is limited to 15 participants and costs 700 EURO. One problem might be the diversity/variety of the MATS student body. Brosius is asking about MATS-ALUMNI work to recruit former MATS for a self-organized career day. Kurtz and others emphasize that students should do such kind of work (ALUMNI) and organize themselves. Moreover, is Heidelberg Alumni International (HAI) doing central ALUMNI work which covers the MATS, too. According to Chi is informal student ALUMNI work already going on in social media (via facebook in the main). Bisping would be very happy to get more information about how the academic landscape looks like, about international academic career opportunities for MATS students as well as job opportunities in the non-academic world. One key question might be: how to get a job as non-German in Germany? Melber explains

that -according to Biebricher – the University's Career Service Day is covering all aforementioned questions, the last one in particular. Further are the professors showing willingness to hold one session of the MATS-Colloquium with a particular focus on future career opportunities. The council agrees on organizing a survey (organized by the council's student representatives) amongst the MATS students if an interest in a MATS Career Day is existing. A Career Orientation Day (organized by the Career Service with 15 participants with a cost of 700 EURO in total) will take place if at least 15 MATS students are showing interest.

#### TOPIC 7

Melber, Hofmann and Bublatzky inform the new grading list procedure is working out so far.