HUMANITIES DIVISIONAL BOARD

Academic Committee

Changes in special regulations governing the Master of Studies in Ancient Philosophy: communication from the Board of the Faculty of Philosophy

Approved on behalf of the Humanities Divisional Board on 9 March 2012.

Humanities Divisional Board

Master of Studies in Ancient Philosophy

Brief note on the nature of the change: Reduction in thesis word limit; increase in essay word limit.

With effect from 1 October 2012 (for first examination in 2013)

1 In Examination Regulations, 2011, p. 596, l. 37, delete: ‘15,000’ and substitute ‘10,000’.

2 Ibid., p. 597, l. 3, delete: ‘4,000’ and substitute ‘5,000’.

3 Ibid., p. 597, l. 11, delete: ‘4,000’ and substitute ‘5,000’.

4 Ibid., p. 597, l. 22, delete: ‘15,000’ and substitute ‘10,000’.

Explanatory Note

(i) The reduction in word limit for the MSt thesis has resulted from experience of the MSt in Ancient Philosophy so far, which suggests that, given the time available to candidates after submission of their two essays on their second subject in Trinity Term, a thesis of 10,000 words is more reasonably to be expected of them than one of 15,000. It also brings the MSt degree more closely in line with other similar degrees.

The essay word limit change, on the other hand, brings the MSt essay word limit in line with the essay word limit for the BPhil in Philosophy and the MSt in Philosophy of Physics. Apart from the pedagogic and egalitarian advantages of this change, it will ultimately also facilitate a transfer of students from the MSt to the BPhil, which the Faculty envisages to accommodate in the future, subject to the necessary approval of relevant regulation changes.

(ii) Current students will not be affected by this regulations change.

(iii) Resource implications: The word limit changes for the thesis and the essays will be in effect resource neutral. The thesis word limit reduction will reduce academic staff’s assessment workload at the end of Trinity Term, when the majority of undergraduate and postgraduate assessment coincides. However, the small increase in the word limit for essays will slightly increase the assessment burden earlier in the term.