Changes in special regulations governing the Master of Studies in Philosophy of Physics: 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 Philosophy of Physics

Brief note about the nature of the change: Clarification of help allowed with written assessments

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

In Examination Regulations, 2011, p. 647, ll. 4-6 delete: ‘The candidate may discuss a draft (but not more than one) of each essay with his or her supervisor. The candidate’s supervisor may provide bibliographical advice on essays throughout.’ and substitute: ‘Candidates are not permitted to show drafts of examination essays to anyone and are not permitted to seek or receive help in the preparation of essays from senior members at Oxford or at any other institution.’.

Explanatory Note

(i) The original regulation (regulation 8, of Examination Regulations 2011, p. 647, ll. 4-6) was intended to apply to essays for examination in Philosophy of Physics whose topics were chosen by candidates, to be approved by the course coordinator, to be submitted by 0th week of TT. This arrangement proved unsatisfactory in a number of respects, and the regulations were subsequently changed, requiring instead that essay topics in Philosophy of Physics be set by the MSt examiners and published at the end of 8th week of HT (likewise to be submitted by 0th week of TT). With this change, the method of examining follows the model of the BPhil in Philosophy, where candidates may not seek assistance from supervisors in writing their essays for examination. Regulation 8 should have been changed to reflect this new structure. This change corrects that oversight.

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

(iii) There is no resource implication.