



**ADRAN MATHEMATEG A FFISEG
MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS DEPARTMENT**

**PWYLLGOR YMGYNGHOROL STAFF/MYFYRWYR (MATHEMATEG)
STAFF/STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (MATHEMATICS)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2013 AT 3 P M IN ROOM 320 IN THE
DEPARTMENT**

Present: Ryan Myles-Roberts (Yr 2), (Chair), Sylvan Bliss (Yr 4), Damien Clarke (Yr 2), Chris Davies (Yr 1), Jacqueline Hall (Yr 3), Christopher Moss (Maths Soc.), Jennifer O'Neil (Yr 3), Tom O'Neill (Yr 2), Lewis Pryce (Postgraduate).

Staff: Alan Jones (Director of Learning and Teaching), Dr Dave Binding (Year 2 Co-ordinator), Dr Tudur Davies (Year 4 Co-ordinator, Dr Rolf Gohm (Year 3 Co-ordinator), , Sahn Nikoi (Information Services), Dr Eleri Pryce (Deputy Director of Learning and Teaching), Dr Adam Vellender (Year 1 co-ordinator).

Apologies for absence were received from: Sam Reynolds (Guild of Students).

In attendance: Llinos Evans

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

Two names came forward for the above position and it was put to a vote. As a result Ryan Myles-Roberts was appointed this session to Chair the committee.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting which was a Joint Committee with Physics held on 19 April 2013 were circulated.

A request was received for the following amendment to be carried out to point number 4 – Matters Raised by Students under Physics Students:

“Year 0 students were quite happy. The representative requested a reading list (rather than noted that they were waiting for a reading list).

These Minutes were then approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. STUDENT MATTERS

Year 1

There were no issues raised by first-year students.

Year 2

Students commented on the modules running in Semester 1. They felt that there was a lack of communication between the two lecturers on module MP26020. They felt the workshops were very useful in allowing them to

go over questions. Students were disappointed to find that there was no information on Blackboard for this module except on the web. Students asked if it was possible to arrange a link from the web site to Blackboard for this module. Students felt that there were not enough revision questions made available to them with only two past papers having been made available. Some students had complained about a bright blue pointer which was used by one of the lecturers which they felt was disruptive to some due to the ray of light.

Students asked Mr Alan Jones whether it was possible to post the notes on blackboard for module MA260? And it was confirmed that this would be done.

Students commended the notes for module MA26510 and felt that the student demonstrator for this module was very good indeed.

The fact that module MA20310 only had two lecture slots as opposed to 3 slots for all other modules was raised by the students.

The position re Welsh-medium material being made available to students was raised as some students had complained that there were no lecture notes or course notes in Welsh for certain modules and thus they experienced problems with terminology in exams. It was reported that modules taught through the medium of Welsh were the ones which had lecture and course notes available in Welsh. Students following modules through the medium of English did have the right to submit course work and sit exams through the medium of Welsh. Staff however were sympathetic with any difficulties encountered and it was hoped that more and more Welsh-medium material would be made available in the future.

Year 3

Students had reported that they were pleased with the room changes since the beginning of term with additional rooms having been released in the department.

Year 4

There were no issues to report by the above.

Postgraduates

No matters were put forward by the postgraduate students. It was confirmed that Steve Turner was the postgraduate student representative for the new Institute with Ryan Myles-Roberts representing the undergraduate students of IMPACS.

Maths Society

Christopher Moss reported that a Christmas Dinner had been arranged to which both students and staff had been invited on Thursday, 5 December at the Constitutional Hill Restaurant. It was hoped next term to introduce lectures in the afternoons/evenings and invite staff to participate by reporting on their own research. The Maths Society would welcome input from staff re this.

Glenda Robertst had discussed text books which staff were receiving free of charge from publishers with the above society and what was the best way that these could be transferred to needy/worthy students. This was a matter currently being looked in and Sahn thought that perhaps the Library could also assist with this.

5. STAFF MATTERS

Dr David Binding reported that he felt that the overall attendance rate this year for 2nd year students had improved. It was believed that this was as a result of the important talk given during Induction Week regarding the progression rule changes. He felt that the students had taken note of this which was pleasing to report.

Dr Adam Vellender reported that the submission rate for course work submitted by 3rd year students had gone down. Students were reminded that even though if course work was not assessed it was extremely important to engage with this as it was the only way that staff were able to judge the ability of students with it's submission. It was a grave cause for concern this session that students in the 3rd year were choosing not to submit non-

assessed work. Jennifer O'Neil one of the 3rd year representatives agreed to take this concerns back to the students and to note the importance to them of completing and submitting non-assessed work.

Sahm Nikoi addressed students and noted that they would be able to borrow books from the Thomas Parry Library and request either morning or afternoon deliveries. They could do this by visiting the PRIMO site on-line. Concerns were raised regarding a course book not being available and there was only one copy in the Library and this copy seemed always to be out on loan. Sahm asked the student concerned to let him have the details of this particular book as if the value of a book was less than £50 perhaps more could be ordered depending on the number of students following the particular module.

Sahm then went on to report that a reconfiguration of the library was planned for the future and as a result feedback would be welcomed from students re space utilization in the library. Students were informed that Sahm was in the Physical Sciences library from 9 until 1 o'clock Mondays to Wednesdays.

It was disappointing to report that following a recent Help Desk set up in the upper floor of the library that only two students attended. This desk was open between 10 and 1 o'clock on the day in questions. Students felt that it needed to be promoted more and perhaps announced in lectures as not all students checked their emails regularly. Sahm asked if the noise could be kept down when these were running in order for other students studying in the library not to be disturbed.

It was reported that the final Semester 2 time-table should be released on 20 December with the final examination time-table being made available to students next week.

Meeting closed at 3.35 p m.