



**SEFYDLIAD MATHEMATEG A FFISEG
INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS**

**PWYLLGOR YMGYNGHOROL MYFYRWYR/STAFF (FFISEG)
STAFF/STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (PHYSICS)**

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 9 April 2014 at 13.00 IN THE STAFF COMMON ROOM

Present: Mitchell Hounsome (Year 0), Chris Lorch (Year 1), Nicolina Chrysaphi (Year 2), Carys Smith (Year 2) Nathan Davies (Year 3), Benjamin Reed (Year 3) Natasha Barker (Year M).

Staff: Dr Balazs Pinter (Year 0 Coordinator), Dr David Langstaff (Year 1 Coordinator), Dr Chris Finlayson (Year 2 Coordinator), Dr Xing Li (Year 3 Coordinator), Dr Eleri Pryse (Year 4 Coordinator and Deputy Director of Learning and Teaching), Mr Alan Jones (Director of Learning and Teaching), Sahn Nikoi (Information Services).

Apologies: Katie Hope (Year 1), Guy Stimpson (Year 2), Anna Russell (Year 2).

In attendance: Trystan Pugh (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

See above.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 2 DECEMBER 2013

The minutes were confirmed and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Some students still haven't had all meetings with their personal tutors (three one-to-one meetings per session for freshers, and subsequently two per session), as highlighted in the last meeting. Staff responded that this would be addressed next year.

The ongoing issue regarding laboratories was raised. Students using the laboratories for independent study can cause a distraction to those partaking in presentations. Staff have taken this on board for future years, but in the meantime DPL will look into holding upcoming presentations in the staff common room instead.

4. SEMESTER ONE QUESTIONNAIRES

The results of semester one questionnaires will be discussed at a separate meeting during Reading Week.

5. STUDENT MATTERS

Year 0

Students raised concerns over the planning and presentation of the MP12910 module, and asked for the material to be delivered more clearly.

Year 1

There is great concern over the general level of disengagement with the course exhibited by first year students, shown by poor level of overall attendance. Staff suggested that the department may follow suit with that of Computer Science, in that a checklist of attendance will become an administrative procedure.

There was a call for the departmental library to be renovated, as students believe the current facilities are not adequate.

Year 2

Computers in labs can often be very slow when there're many users. Staff have acknowledged this and stated that Dave Price is currently looking into ways of speeding up the login process.

On the issue of video recording lectures, staff advised that students need to ask the lecturers beforehand, as the provision is already in place.

Students made the request for the labs to be used as study areas during the Easter Break. Dave Langstaff said he would look into the possibility of getting cover for this period.

It was suggested that a 2nd year academic tutorial on a module would be of benefit to students. Balázs Pintér offered to look into the possibility of adding an extra hour.

Students would like a timetable of assignment deadlines to be made available at the beginning of term, allowing for better planning in terms of time management. Staff will look to introduce this next year.

The possibility of a water cooler in the department was raised. The department will contact house services with the request.

Year 3

Some students would like lecturers to provide model answers to questions after assignments have been marked. It was suggested at the meeting that more feedback sessions could be another solution. Student reps will ask other students what the preference is.

Year 4

There were no 4th year matters to discuss.

Postgraduate

There was no representative present.

6. STAFF MATTERS

Sahm Nikoi informed all that the IS website contains information about the library opening hours during Easter and vacation loaning. IS are also looking for feedback on Ebook – student reps will spread the news.

Sahm also stated that after Easter, he will only be available in the departmental library on Monday mornings.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Students made a final point that they think Excel should be used more for basics, as it's useful in terms of future employability.

Meeting ended at 14:15