



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

**PWYLLGOR CYSWLLT STAFF-MYFYRWYR (Pwyllgor ar y Cyd)
STAFF/STUDENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (Joint Committee)**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, 19 APRIL 2013 HELD AT 3 P M IN ROOM 319

Present: Student Representatives - Kevin Wingfield (Chair), Natasha Barker, Sylvan Bliss, Nathan Davies, Gavin Gray, Jacqueline Hall, Caitlyn Jones, Steven Kelly, Jennifer O'Neil, Lewis Pryce, Ryan Myles-Roberts, Cerys Rand, Tom Smith, Guy Stimpson, Aled Wyn Thomas,

Staff (Year Tutors) - Dr Dave Binding, Dr Chris Finlayson, Dr Rolf Gohm, Alan Jones, Dr Dave Langstaff, Dr Xing Li, Dr Adil Mughal, Dr Balazs Pinter, Dr Eleri Pryse.

Apologies for absence were received from: Mr Sahn Nikoi (Information Services).

In attendance: Llinos Evans

1. WELCOME

Kevin Wingfield acted as Chair and welcomed staff and students to the joint meeting and thanked all for attending. It had been decided last session to hold a joint meeting annually for Maths and Physics student representatives.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting which was held on 19 March 2012 were confirmed and approved.

3. MATTERS ARISING

The matter re MP modules and multiple lectures was discussed and it was confirmed that multiple lecturers was still the case in certain modules as opposed one lecturer delivering the whole module. Physics students reported that the Algebra and Calculus module was the example that came to mind. In semester 2 they found a lot of things were repeated from semester 1 as far as teaching was concerned due to a different member of staff delivering the module. Students reported that they did prefer one lecturer to deliver a module right through the session. There was no consistency as far as notation was concerned. Students felt strongly that there should be consistency in the way a module was being taught in this respect by the two lecturers.

Students still felt that the laboratories got too full at times and were also left untidy.

Students felt the contribution given by our postgraduate students was very valuable indeed and welcomed the assistance provided for them. They felt they could engage with them more easily if they encountered any difficulties with a particular module.

The module Differential Equations was discussed and students were in agreement that it was an important module for all to study and assisted them during the course of their degree. Students did not think that in the first year its existence and importance was pointed out to them as an optional module. Staff agreed to address this issue during induction and registration next session.

It was confirmed that the software licence for Webassign had not been renewed this session which explained why it was not used or was an issue. The importance of showing workings out when sitting an exam or submitting course work was stressed as students could be losing out on valuable marks in this respect. Staff

were asked to ensure that Foundation Year students in particular were made aware of this as many had not followed an A-level course and thus were not aware that even if they got an answer incorrectly they could still gain marks by showing the method used.

4. MATTERS RAISED BY STUDENTS

Year 1 Mathematics students had no issues to raise.

Year 2 Mathematics students asked Mr Alan Jones whether he was willing to place the details of assignments set directly on Blackboard as well as circulating hard copies in a lecture. This would aid students who were absent as well as any other students who mislaid this information. It was more of a problem during vacation time when staff were away.

Year 3 students enquired as to whether all past examination papers could be put on Blackboard. Mr Alan Jones confirmed that all past examination papers would appear on the web by next week.

Year 4 students asked if consideration could be given again to reintroduce the coffee mornings which had taken place in past years. They felt that these had been very useful in providing an opportunity to meet other students in different years as well as staff. It was reported that the Physics Society also used to hold similar coffee mornings. Staff agreed to discuss this further prior to next session.

Postgraduate matters – Postgraduate Students who had recently attended a writing course which was compulsory as opposed to an important conference which was on at the same time, questioned the benefit of having to spend two whole days on such a course. They felt that a 2 hour session as opposed to a two day session was sufficient for such a course. They had not benefitted from this course and were told on the day that they could have attended a course for Arts students on a different date but by then had lost out on attending the conference which would have benefitted them with their research work.

RECOMMENDED: that the above be reported to the Postgraduate Office as a matter of urgency and also put in writing to the student representatives who would be attending a Student Council meeting shortly.

Year 0 students were quite happy and reported that they were still waiting for the receipt of a Reading List.

Year 1 students were a bit confused re the choice of modules available for next session following a lecture with Dr Eleri Pryse earlier. This was due to plans to change some modules from year 2 to year 3 and vice-versa for next session. Students were urged to complete the pre-registration process on-line from their student record page and any required changes to their choice of modules could be addressed at the beginning of next session.

Some students seemed unaware of the existence and indeed the location of the Maths Help Desk and it was agreed that all students should have been informed by a general e-mail at the beginning of each session re this.

It was therefore

RECOMMENDED: that an email be sent now to all 1st and 2nd year students to draw their attention to the HEP Desk and the times and location in the department.

Year 2 – it was reported that the final examination time-table was now available on the web and that the 2nd year students seemed quite happy with the way their exams had been scheduled.

Year 3 – students enquired as to whether the fact that Dr Martin Wilding had been away recently for approximately two months would warrant an extension for students he was supervising projects for. It was confirmed that the fact that a supervisor was away did warrant grounds for an extension and students should contact Dr Rudi Winter as module co-ordinator in the first instance to request an extension.

Year 4 – students reported that although this was not an issue just for year 4 students but several students were unhappy about some students taking food and drink into the laboratories despite signage telling them that this was prohibited. All students agreed that this was out of order and that only bottled water should be allowed and welcomed the assistance of staff in ensuring that this was the case.

5. MATTERS RAISED BY STAFF

There were no issues to report from staff.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Students were asked to consider the position of the Physics Society and the Maths Society when the new Institute came into being on 1st of August this session when Computer Science also would be part of the new Institute.

Meeting closed at 3.55 p m