

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

**PWYLLGOR CYSWLLT STAFF/MYFYRWYR/  
STAFF/STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 3.10 P M IN THE  
IMAPS COMMON ROOM**

**Present:** Paul Arnold (Chair and Year 3 Rep), Katherine Ball (Year 3 Rep), Craig Bibbey (Year 2 Rep), Robert Douglas (Staff), Alan Jones (Staff), James Lewis (MathSoc Rep), Adil Mughal (Staff), Jennifer O'Neil (Year 1 Rep), Cerys Rand (Year 3 Rep), Adam Smith (Year 2 Rep), Aled Wyn Thomas (Year 2 Rep), Adam Vellender (Postgrad Rep), Jennifer Wheatley (Year M Rep), Aled Wyn Williams (Year 1 Rep).

**Apologies for absence:** Sahn Nikoi (Information Services)

**Also present:** Sam Reynolds (Guild of Students)

**In attendance:** Llinos Evans

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**M I N U T E S**

**1. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting which was held on 9 May 2011 were confirmed and approved.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Paul Arnold volunteered to act as Chair to the Mathematics Student/Staff Liaison Committee and acted as chair to the first meeting of this session.

**3. INTRODUCTION TO AU STUDENT REPRESENTATION**

Sam Reynolds addressed the committee explaining the nature of his role as Student Representative and Experience Co-ordinator in the Guild of Students. Students were informed about the existence of training courses for student representatives. There would be a choice of dates and students were encouraged to attend. Details would be circulated directly from the Guild of Students.

Discussion took place on whether Mathematics students were represented on the Course Representative Council last session. The general feeling was that they were not. It was decided to discuss representatives for this academic year's council under Any Other Business.

**4. STUDENT MATTERS**

Year 1

Jennifer O'Neil reported that some students who had studied Statistics rather than Mechanics modules during their Maths A-Level were finding the pace of MP14010 fast.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Robert Douglas discuss the above concern with the module co-ordinator.

Level 1 students also wished to thank Dr Balazs Pinter for using a microphone when delivering module MA10020 as this proved to be very beneficial.

## Year 2

There were no problems to report from second-year representatives.

## Year 3

Again there were no major concerns to report from third-year representatives.

Students did comment however on the MA38410 Control Theory class. They commented that whilst the lectures were indeed very good they felt that explanations meandered during problem classes.

Discussion took place re MA34110 Partial Differential Equations. Students would like more examples if at all possible. They felt that important information was sometimes being rubbed off the board too quickly. Another comment was that as a number of staff were involved in this course, communication of when sessions were taking place was occasionally a problem.

Students would like to see more examples in MA31210 Dynamical Systems.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Robert Douglas discuss the above with the relevant lecturers concerned.

## 5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

### Postgraduate Matters

Adam Vellender was asked to raise concerns at the meeting re research modules which were being run for new postgraduate students. These were compulsory under the Research Training Exercise. Many students felt that it was not beneficial at all for them as science students and in particular for students carrying out research in Mathematics.

### Poster Competition

There was a general feeling that the above was not run as well this session as in previous years. A deadline had been set but students learnt afterwards that this had been extended after the closing date which was unfair for entries which had already been submitted by the due date.

In previous years the posters had been sent to the judges well in advance, but this year the judges did not see the posters until ten minutes before they met the students who had prepared them.

Postgraduate students requested that arrangements for the above be carried out better in future years to ensure fairness all round.

### Maths Society

It was confirmed that the Christmas Dinner this year would be held in the Glen Hotel with the exact date to be decided.

## Staff Matters

Staff had no matters to raise.

### **6. Joint Maths/Physics Staff/Student Committee**

The possibility of having one joint Maths/Physics Staff/Student Liaison Committee was discussed as opposed to having two separate committees i.e. one for Mathematics and one for Physics. Students initially did not favour this idea as they thought that the existence of a committee just for Mathematics students was very important. They felt that there would not be issues of common interest to both if there was only a joint meeting. However after discussion they agreed that an additional joint committee which met once a session could be introduced on a trial basis. Students were reminded that issues relating to Mathematics and Physics modules could be discussed at such meetings. Mathematics students could have completely different views on such module to Physics students but a joint meeting would enable both views to be heard at the same time and discussed further.

**RECOMMENDED:** that a trial joint meeting be held this session but that it was still important to hold separate Student/Staff Liaison Committees for Mathematics and Physics students.

### **7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The nomination of Senior Representative for the Council in the Guild of Students was discussed and the following students agreed to accept this role:

Adam Smith  
Paul Arnold

## Laboratories

Students questioned whether they were still allowed to use the two newly refurbished laboratories after as they seemed to be heavily used with teaching Physics.

It was confirmed that the two laboratories were for all IMAPS students and although they were being heavily used, Mathematics students were welcome to make use of them when they were free.

## Library

Concern was expressed with the level of noise in the IMAPS Library. This was especially a problem when students wished to go in there to carry out work in a quiet environment.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Robert Douglas draws the above to the attention of Sahn Nikoi from Information Services so that the problem can be addressed.

## Evaluation Forms/Questionnaires

An example of the above form which was used to evaluate modules was circulated. It was confirmed that the feedback question on the form referred to all types of feedback during the module. Students were given an opportunity during lectures in week 9 to complete a form for all modules.

Students were asked to contact Alan Jones if they had any suggestions to improve the current form.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was decided to hold the next meeting at 3.10 p m on Tuesday, 6 December 2011. This would enable the completed questionnaire results to be discussed.

Meeting closed at 3.40 p m