



**Sefydliad Mathemateg a Ffiseg**  
**Institute of Mathematics & Physics**

# MATHEMATICS

## STUDENT/STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 12.00pm  
 In Room 231 (SEL), Physical Sciences Building

### MINUTES

**Present:**

Chair:	Sarah Fay	SAF8	Year 3 Student Rep
Secretary:	Miss Sarah Spring	RMS	Staff
	Dr Tarlochan Viridi	TSV	Administrator
Visitor:	Mr Robert Cooper	RWC	IS Representative
	Dr Rob Douglas	RSD	Staff
	Dr Adil Mughal	AQM	Staff
	Mr Alan Jones	DAJ	Staff
	Deiniol Hughes	DEH5	Yr 1 Student Rep
	Jacek Wychowaniec	JKW1	Yr 1 Student Rep
	Paul Arnold	PDA9	Yr 2 Student Rep
	Katherine Ball	KTB9	Yr 2 Student Rep
	Cerys Rand	CER9	Yr 2 Student Rep
	Bethan Thomas	BTT8	Yr 3 Student Rep
	Adam Vellender	ASV09	PG Student Rep
	Martin O'Hagan	MTO7	Mathsoc Student Rep

#### 1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1.1 The minutes for the meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2010 were approved.

#### 2. Matters Arising

3.2 RSD confirmed that he had done this.

3.4 RSD confirmed that he had brought the matter to the attention of the lecturer concerned.

3.5 RSD confirmed that he had done this.

3.6 TSV confirmed that it was very likely that there would be a student room next semester and that the matter was currently in hand.

3.7 RSD confirmed that he had done this.

**3. Student Matters****Yr 1:**

3.1 No issues to report.

**Yr 2:**

3.4 KTB9 asked whether model solutions to past examination papers would be made available. RSD replied that this would be decided by individual course lecturers. Some would provide model solutions; others would work through a past exam in the last couple of lectures of a course.

**Yr 3:**

3.6 BTT8 reported that students were complaining about the freezing temperatures in lecture theatre Physics B.

**Action: TSV to report the matter of freezing temperatures in Physics B, to Estates.**

3.7 BTT8 asked whether it was possible to have extra tutorials, dedicated to explaining notation in MA37110; Differential Geometry. SAF8 added that more examples on this module would also be helpful and asked whether it could be made into a 20 credit module. RSD explained that the credit value of the module could not be changed; there was already a 20 credit version of the course, but that this was only available to Year 4 MMath students. However as the course was not a prerequisite for any later course, it would be possible to cover less new material and spend more time elucidating notation and considering simple examples.

**Action: RSD to speak to the lecturer regarding the issues raised for MA37110; Differential Geometry course.**

3.8 SAF8 reported that students on module MA34110; Partial Differential Equations felt that module solutions were given out too late.

3.9 SAF8 reported that a small minority of students on module MA30210; Norms & Differential Equations, had complained that the notes were not put on Blackboard. RSD stated that he had not put the notes on Blackboard for this module as he believed it discouraged students from more active learning during classes and that this was his policy for pure mathematics modules involving a substantial number of proofs.

**Yr 4:** No representatives present.

**PGs:**

3.11 No issues to report.

**MathSoc:**

3.12 No issues to report.

#### 4. Staff Matters

4.1 No issues to report.

#### 5. Questionnaires

5.1 DAJ reported that the numbers of submitted questionnaires for the calculus part of the MA10020; Algebra and Calculus module did not correspond with attendance figures for that module and asked Year 1 students whether they could offer any explanation for this. DEH5 stated that one lecturer had run out of questionnaires and therefore not every student had received one. JKW1 pointed out that everyone who had requested a questionnaire was given one. RSD reminded students of the importance of completing and submitting questionnaires so that their views could be taken into account.

5.2 DAJ reported that the Year 1 questionnaire results on the question of 'Feedback' varied considerably from module to module, which was curious as tutorial patterns for all modules in the Year were relatively regimented. DAJ asked students whether there could be some confusion as to what 'feedback' was referring to. SAF8 stated that she felt the meaning and context of the 'feedback question' in the questionnaire could be explained more clearly.

**Action: DAJ to look into rewording the Questionnaire to better clarify the question of 'Feedback'.**

5.3 CER9 stated that students on MP26020; Mathematical Physics had not yet received Questionnaires. DAJ stated that all students would receive them within the next few days.

5.4 JKW1 pointed out that Year 1 students on PH14020; Dynamics, Relativity & Quantum Physics had not yet received any marked coursework. TSV stated that assignments/feedback on this module were in the General Office for students to collect and had been for the last two weeks.

5.5 AQM reported that attendance on MA30510; Geometry of Complex Numbers was very poor. BTT8 explained that this may be due to the fact that lectures are timetabled for a Wednesday afternoon. MTO7 pointed out that some students did not attend lectures as the notes were available on Blackboard. BTT8 stated that she felt the workshops were very helpful. SAF8 explained that attendance did not seem to reflect on module content; that the lecture time slot was to blame.

#### 6. AOB

6.1 No other Business.

#### 7. Date of Next Meeting

7.1 It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in the third week of February 2011, subject to finalisation of the Semester 2 timetable.