



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

MATHEMATICS STUDENT STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11th February 2011 at 2:00pm
In Room 231 (SEL), Physical Sciences Building

MINUTES

Present:

Chair:	Sarah Fay	SAF8	Year 3 Student Rep
Secretary:	Miss Sarah Spring	RMS	Apologies
	Dr Tarlochan Virdi	TSV	Administrator [Minutes]
	Mr Robert Cooper	RWC	IS Representative
	Dr Rob Douglas	RSD	Staff
	Dr Adil Mughal	AQM	Staff
	Mr Alan Jones	DAJ	Staff
	Jacek Wychowaniec	JKW1	Yr 1 Student Rep
	Paul Arnold	PDA9	Yr 2 Student Rep
	Katherine Ball	KTB9	Apology
	Cerys Rand	CER9	Yr 2 Student Rep
	Bethan Thomas	BTT8	Yr 3 Student Rep
	Adam Vellender	ASV09	PG Student Rep

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th December 2010 were approved.

2. Matters Arising

3.6 TSV said that this matter was reported to Estates on 16 December 2010 and that he was still waiting for a response from Estates.

3.7 RSD reported that he had received a response from the lecturer on module MA37110: Differential Geometry. The lecturer had explained that examples had been provided later in the course. Year 3 students reported that many candidates left the MA37110: Differential Geometry examination after 45 minutes.

5.2 DAJ reported that he would contact all students regarding the feedback question on the questionnaire and report on this at the next meeting. DAJ also noted that the web-based (Facebook) survey recently instigated by Physics students should not be regarded as an official survey.

Action: DAJ to contact all students regarding the feedback question on questionnaires.

3. Student Matters

Yr 1:

- 3.1 Students asked if they would receive general feedback on the exam results. RSD reported that personal tutors would arrange meetings after examinations results were released.

Yr 2:

- 3.2 CER9 stated that the exam paper for MP26020: Mathematical Physics had symbols missing and that the formulae sheets had been given out late. DAJ responded that this was a three hour examination and the formulae sheets were provided within 10 minutes of the start of the examination.
- 3.3 CER9 reported that there had been concern that examinations were scheduled too close together. DAJ pointed out that students should have raised this concern when the provisional time table was initially released.
- 3.4 CER9 reported that there was also concern about lectures starting straight after the examinations and asked whether it would be possible for suitable gap to be left in future. DAJ stated that it would also benefit staff to have a gap between the end of examinations and the start of lectures but explained that this was a central issue and IMAPS was therefore not in position make these changes.
- 3.5 CER9 reported that students on MP26020: Mathematical Physics were concerned about the number of cancelled lectures last semester.

Action: RSD to investigate the number of cancelled lectures on MP26020: Mathematical Physics.

- 3.6 CER9 reported that past exam solutions provided on MA20310: Introduction to Abstract Algebra, were not complete, and that there were errors.
- 3.7 CER9 reported that due to sports commitments (especially on away days), some students were concerned that they would have to miss lectures and practical scheduled for a Wednesday. DAJ reported that it would not be possible to change or cancel lectures scheduled on Wednesday mornings. But agreed that it was important to investigate how many students were affected.

Action: DAJ to look into how many students' sports commitments are affected by the scheduling of lectures and practicals on a Wednesday.

Yr 3:

- 3.8 SAF8 reported that Lecture Theatre 319 was too small to comfortably accommodate the volume of students in some classes. DAJ reported that there were a limited number of lecture theatres available on the campus and

that while every effort was being made to do so, it was not always possible to exactly match the class size to lecture theatres.

- 3.9 SAF8 reported that candidates were not expecting the new exam format for the MA37110: Differential Geometry Examination.

Action: DAJ to remind lecturers to inform students about non-standard rubrics.

- 3.10 SAF8 requested that students were provided with a Mock paper for all new modules as early as possible.

Action: RSD to remind lecturers to prepare mock papers for new courses as early as practicable.

Yr 4:

- 3.11 No issues to report.

PGs:

- 3.11 No issues to report.

MathSoc:

- 3.12 No issues to report.

4. Staff Matters

- 4.1 RSD asked if students had received documentation from the Course Representation Council (CRC). Students replied that they had.

5. AOB

- 5.1 DAJ reiterated the importance of student participation in the National Student Survey. He urged all representatives to contact students asking them to participate in this forthcoming survey.
- 5.3 TSV reported that request for an undergraduate common room for IMAPS students had been discussed at the recent Management Board meeting. TSV explained that in the first instance, it had been decided that new furniture would be installed in the PSB Foyer and that the use of the Foyer would be monitored before any further decision on the creation of a separate UG common room was made. TSV reported that five (two three-seater and three two-seater) sofa's had been ordered and installed in the Foyer for this purpose.

6. Date of Next Meeting

- 7.1 Friday 25th March 2011, 2:00pm

