



SEFYDLIAD MATHEMATEG A FFISEG
INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS

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

MINUTES OF MEETING OF 20 FEBRUARY AT 16.00 2013 IN THE STAFF COMMON ROOM

Present: Gavin Gray (Year 0), Marcus Peck (Year 0), Osian Morgan (Year 1), Guy Stimpson (Year 1), Nathan Davies (Year 2), Natasha Barker (Year 3), Steven Kelly (Year 3), Tom Smith (Year 3), Kevin Wingfield (Year 4, Chair), Caitlin Jones (Year 4).

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), Sahn Nikoi (Information Services).

Apologies: Calum Gardner (Year 2), Rachel Cross (Postgraduate), Ben Reed (Phys Soc), Sam Reynolds (Guild), Llinos Evans (Minutes).

In attendance: Trystan Pugh (Minutes)

1. MINUTES OF MEETING ON 12 DECEMBER 2012

The minutes were confirmed and approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING OF 12 DECEMBER 2012

Timetable Issues

Students were unsure about the time of a Planetary Atmospheres, Ionospheres and Magnetospheres lecture due to recent changes by the lecturer. **The lecturer will be asked to inform the students accordingly.**

Timetable for Laboratories

There is a general timetable in the second floor corridor that included details of the laboratory modules.

Past Exam Papers

Past exam papers from 2011-12 were made available.

Computing Issues

The computing issues raised in the last meeting have now been resolved thanks to Martin Vickers.

3. STUDENT MATTERS

Year 0

Concerns were raised about the Physics of Matter exam, in that the format was not consistent with past papers that students had been given. Staff explained that this was likely to have occurred because of the format of exam papers being in a transition period coupled with the illness of the lecturer. **In future years, students will be made aware of the exam paper format.**

Year 1

No Matters to report.

Year 2

Eigenvalues and *eigenfunctions* came up in the Quantum Mechanics module, but students had no prior knowledge of it. **Staff responded that this was being addressed.**

Students noted that they were not receiving responses from the department when querying issues surrounding the exam timetable. Staff explained that there were massive problems with central timetabling this session, with many emails being received. Queries were dealt with and responses provided collectively when matters were resolved. Timetabling should hopefully be sorted by next year.

Year 3

Students raised an issue with the Semiconductor Physics exam paper. Staff were aware of this and it had been taken into account during marking.

There was concern surrounding the format of the Galaxies exam (too convoluted – too much writing and questions split up too much). **This has been noted and it will be taken into account in future.**

Some students have been contacting course representatives regarding issues that should be directed elsewhere. **Efforts will be made to increase awareness of the role of course reps, possibly at induction week.**

Year 4

Some students at Svalbard had encountered problems with Erasmus funding via the International Office, but this was believed to be sorted. **The representative was asked to advise the students in question to inform Xing Li with specifics.**

Concerns were expressed regarding the Quantum Technology exam, in that some questions were on subject matter barely covered in class, whilst section B was perceived as containing questions with an unbalanced relationship between marks allocated and time required for answering. **The concerns will be relayed to the lecturers.**

Postgraduate

No representative present.

4. STAFF MATTERS

Information Services

Sahm Nikoi advised students that they should make the most of the ‘More Books’ campaign, as it is still running.

Sahm advised that the regular librarian is off work at present and that various staff will be filling in on a rota basis.

Sahm reiterated that he is available to help students in the library on Thursdays as usual, and that the IS website lists the library opening hours over Easter.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

National Student Survey

There has been a very low response rate to the final-year National Student Survey so far. **Year 3 and 4 course reps will encourage students to participate.**

New Institute Name

Staff asked students about what they think the new institute could be called. **Suggested acronyms should be emailed to imaps@aber.ac.uk.**

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be a joint Maths/Physics SSCC, and is scheduled to take place in the week ending 22 March.