

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

**PWYLLGOR CYSWLLT STAFF/MYFYRWYR - Ffiseg  
STAFF/STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE - Physics**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25 APRIL 2012 AT 2 PM IN THE  
STAFF COMMON ROOM**

**Present:** Anthony Meade (Year 0 Rep), Guy Stimpson (Year 0 Rep), Nathan Davies (Year 1 Rep), Natasha Barker (Year 2 Rep), Gregory Hunt (Year 3 Rep), James Morris (Year 3 Rep), Peter Bedwell (Year 4 Rep), Clare McLoughlin (Year 4 Rep), David Langstaff (Staff), Balazs Pinter (Staff) Martin Wilding (Staff),

**Apologies for absence:** Andrew Edwards (Year 1 Rep), John Gannaway (Year 2 Rep), Rachel Cross (PG Rep), Sam Reynolds (Guild Rep). Sahn Nikoi (Library/IS Rep)

**In attendance:** Trystan Pugh

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**M I N U T E S**

**1. Welcome/Apologies for absence**

Clare McLoughlin chaired the meeting and thanked those present for their attendance. Andrew Edwards, John Gannaway, Rachel Cross, Sahn Reynolds and Sahn Nikoi sent apologies for their absence.

**2. Matters arising from the Joint Staff/Student Liaison Committee – 19 March 2012**

The issue of PG support was raised, following on from the recommendation from the joint meeting in March. Staff responded that this can be provided in principle, but it would depend on funding.

**3. Student Matters**

**Year 0**

Students commented that they would like to see more use of Blackboard by lecturers, as it is a valuable tool.

*ACTION*

*BAP stated that he has made enquiries with Blackboard regarding whether there could be a preview button before submitting work. This will be followed up.*

**Year 1**

Some students who were formally in Andy Breen's tutor group are still without a new group. There also appears to be inconsistency in the level of correspondence that students receive from various tutors.

### **ACTION**

*MBW will look into placing tutorless students into groups, and will also look to come up with guidelines for a minimum expectation of tutors.*

Issues regarding the freshers week were raised. In the previous two years, the old college has had a different programme to the department, which has caused some problems and confusion.

### **ACTION**

*Support staff will contact the old college to ensure this doesn't happen again. Also, the programme will be circulated amongst staff beforehand.*

*Discussions took place regarding how to contact future students before their freshers week, It was agreed that a Facebook page could be created specifically for this purpose.*

### **Year 2**

No year 2 issues were raised.

### **Year 3**

Students are concerned that there are still three assignments yet to be set, with little time left with exams approaching.

### **ACTION**

*MBW will look to set a revision based assignment, which will aid in exam preparation. It was agreed that the final week of exams would be the best time to set assignment deadlines.*

Students wished to pass on their thanks to Martin Vickers for his recent help with computing support. DPL stated that Martin is now in post assisting with technical support in the department in place of Andrew Rawlins.

There have been some problems with students looking for Svalbard accommodation. There appears to have been issues in communication with the accommodation office, resulting in students being put on a waiting list.

### **ACTION**

*Next academic year, the department will make a list before Christmas of who is planning to go to Svalbard. This will then be sent to the accommodation office.*

### **Year 4**

Again on the topic of Svalbard, students felt that details – specifically domestic information – was delivered too late, and could have been given in more time. This was duly noted.

Natasha Barker will take up the mentoring scheme next year.

Students enquired about whether there could be more competitions in the department, as such awards look impressive on a CV and can give candidates an edge.

### **ACTION**

*It was agreed that this is a good idea, and a whip round amongst staff to help fund prizes was suggested. PHYSOC would also look at organising staff awards.*

It was asked whether there could be an end of year event in the foyer for students leaving the university.

### **ACTION**

*A cheese and wine evening will take place in the foyer on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students.*

#### **4. Staff Matters**

BAP stated that Physics students could make use of the Maths drop in centres should they wish. Staff will look into using the screen above the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor lab to advertise this.

MBW believes it is not good practise to put up exam solutions from past papers as they are sometimes recycled. This can lead to students memorising and then regurgitating answers to a different question.

#### **5. Any Other Business**

Phys-Chic and the Physics Buskers have organised a science fair on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May at the Belle Vue Royal Hotel from 10:30 – 16:00. Visitors will be treated to hands on exhibits and experiments.

Meeting closed at 11 am.