

**PWYLLGOR YMGYNGHOROL MYFYRWYR-STAFF (FFISEG)**

**STUDENT-STAFF CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (PHYSICS)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 25 February 2015, 1.10pm, ROOM 231, PHYSICAL SCIENCES BUILDING**

**Present: Gareth Stephens (Year 0, Chair), Alexander Pitchford (PG), Charlotte House (Year 3), Nicolina Chrysaphi (Year 3), Lloyd Woodham (Year 3), Katie Hope (Year 2), Christopher Lorch (Year 2), Connor Bentley (Year 1), Naveen Vijayan (Year 1)**

**Staff: Chris Finlayson, Edwin Flikkema, Xing Li, Eleri Pryse, Sahn Nikoi**

**Apologies: Liz Postle (Yr 4)**

**In attendance: Myfanwy Cowdy**

**1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting on November 2014 were accepted.

**2. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING**

Students found the Assignment deadlines posted on Blackboard very useful.

The level of noise was still a problem in the Labs. The Library could also be used for independent study for a quieter environment.

**3. STUDENT MATTERS**

**Years 0 and 1**

**Departmental Library**

A suggestion was made to allocate a group study space in the Physical Sciences Library. This may also reduce the noise level in the laboratories. Sahn agreed to investigate possibilities in consultation with Mathematics and Computer Science. He also mentioned that re-spacing of books is occasionally done in the Library so that new books can be added. Students were encouraged to check 'Location' on Primo. There were major rewiring plans for the Library, with new lighting and extra sockets for laptops.

Concern was raised about the library door, which could cause accessibility problems. The porters would be consulted on this.

**ACTION:** Sahn to investigate the possibilities of group study areas.

Consult with porters about the door.

**Assignments**

Web based assignments were discussed. Students would like feedback on incorrect answers. One weekly assignment on-line had a 'chatting' space, which is useful.

**Laboratories**

Students were still leaving before the end of the session.

**ACTION:** Students to be encouraged not to leave before the end of sessions.

Year 1 students were keen to develop their skills in dealing with uncertainties in experimental measurements beyond what is currently done. A comprehensive set of notes on uncertainties had been distributed to Year 0 by Prof A Evans. It was suggested that these could be made available to Year 1 students.

**ACTION:** Ask Prof Evans to consider making the notes on uncertainties in measurements available on Blackboard to Year 1 students.

### **Demonstrators / Computer Coding**

Students were generally satisfied with the level of demonstrator support for module. The pg representative asked if more computer coding support was needed in MP12910. The students said that this could be helpful. Additional assistance with Sci Lab in the 1<sup>st</sup> year laboratory may also be helpful. It was noted that the Joint Honours Maths/Physics students do not take MP12910.

**ACTION:** To be raised at the next Departmental Learning and Teaching meeting.

### **Erasmus**

There seemed limited choice of country for English students as most countries required students to speak a language. There were three Year 4 students currently studying at Svalbard.

### **Year 2**

#### **PH25520**

The Experimental Physics 2<sup>nd</sup> year course may benefit from developing the range and complexity of projects on offer.

#### **Academic Tutorials**

Academic Tutorials are linked to modules and vary from module to module and were reported to be good this year.

#### **Assignment Deadlines**

The Semester 2 deadlines for each year had been collated and would be placed on Blackboard shortly. Most deadlines in the last Semester had been before Christmas but one had been during the exam period.

#### **Stars and Planets**

Assignments for Stars and Planets were felt to be harder than the material on Blackboard. It was not clear where to find the relevant information. This will be addressed next year.

### **Year 3**

Students hadn't received a mark for a Condensed Matter assignment from last semester. Also some past exam papers had only been loaded up the night before the exam.

Lab equipment – There didn't seem to be a full list of equipment which meant that lecturers were not aware of what equipment was in the lab.

**ACTION:** A lab stock-take will be requested.

**Astrophysics** – Some Astrophysics students felt that they did not have sufficient opportunity to develop telescope skills. It was suggested that this could be accommodated in a module taken by the Astrophysics students.

#### **Year 4**

There were no Year 4 students present.

#### **Postgraduates**

Demonstrating to undergraduate students was felt to be important and good experience for graduate training.

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

Students were asked to provide feedback on the Hugh Owen 4 hour opening hours. A reminder was also given that students need to revalidate their student card every 90 days otherwise they wouldn't be able to gain access.

A large number of students had turned up 15 minutes late to a first-year lecture and had been refused entry by the lecturer.

**ACTION:** a message would be sent to Year Tutors asking them to stress the importance of punctuality

#### **5. AOB**

The next meeting would be after Easter and before the start of the Examination period. It is to be considered whether this will be a Departmental or Institute SSCC.