

Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences

Mathematics Student-Staff Consultative Committee
Wednesday 6 March 2019, 1pm in MP 3.05, Physical Sciences Building

Present: Rob Douglas (RSD, Director of L&T Maths), Adam Vellender (ASV2, Year 1 tutor), Chris Svendsen (Chair, Year 4 Rep), Panna Karlinger (Year 3 Rep), Kim Kenobi (Year 3 tutor), Tudur Davies (ITD, Year 4 tutor), Tirion Roberts (PG Rep), Anwen Thomas (Welsh Medium Rep), Yuan Shen (YUS10, Year 0 tutor and Employability), Amy Major (MathSoc), Baylee Paige Schütte (BAS18, Year 2 Rep), Simon French (SIF4, Library), Joel Greenwood (Year 3 Rep), Adil Mughal (AQM, Year 2 Tutor), James Owen (Year 3 Rep), Jordan Brennan (JOB99, Year 0 Rep)

In attendance: Shelley Fullwood (SMI, Minutes)

Apologies: Cameron Wilcox (Year 4 Rep), Morwenna Jeffery (MRJ11, Careers), Georgie Massen (Year 2 Rep), Daniel Skerman (Year 1 Rep)

Agenda

19. **Minutes of 6th December 2018**

The minutes were accepted.

20. **Matters arising**

Action Number	Minute Number	Action	Whose Action	Action Status
2	4	Adam Vellender to report these observations to IS.	asv2	Action on-going. A request has been made for board capturing cameras in MP 0.10 and MP 0.11, and better quality cameras elsewhere.
8	7	Request more plug sockets for the PSB library.	sif4	Action complete in part but issue is on-going.
13	1	Write to the Timetabling Office reminding them of the students' preferred option of spreading the Year 3 exams across the whole exam period, instead of bunching them up, to allow maximum time between papers.	rsd	Done and acknowledged. Academic Registry has decided there will no longer be Saturday exams but an additional Wednesday in semester 1. Mathematics has requested that the first and third Wednesdays are

				always in use for level 3 mathematics exams (to ease congestion).
13	2	State total marks at the end of model solutions.	rsd	Action complete.
15		Morwenna Jeffery to split the drop in sessions between PSB and Llandinam and advertise these via email and YUS10 to organise a reminder on the TV monitor in the foyer.	mrj11/yus10	Action complete.

21. Student Matters

TUN

One notice received (from outside the department). The sender incorrectly thought that attendance marks in Part 1 modules applied to the final degree classification. In Part 1, coursework should be viewed as participation, and this is something we are trying to encourage.

Year 3

- Room MP 3.02 is very hot – little can be done.
- Room MP 0.10 was too small for the Tuesday MA3/M70 Lebesgue Integration class, as a number of seats have restricted viewing due to the position of the console. Will request that the console is moved.

Action: RSD to request that the console in MP 0.10 is moved so that fewer seats have restricted views of the white boards.

Some delay in returning marked formative assessments in MA/MT324 Graphs and Networks and MA383 Operator Algebra.

The interactive problem classes of MA/MT342 Asymptotic Methods in Mechanics were seen as a good idea.

Year 2

- BAS18 reported a couple of students found the pace of MA/MT252 Numerical Analysis lectures too fast and are having trouble keeping up with the material. They request more practical sessions.

Action: ITD to consider adding more practical sessions (and reducing lectures) in MA/MT252 for next academic year.

- Confusion about handing in MA/MT215 Complex Analysis assignments: AQM confirmed students may submit work to the folder outside his office.
- MA266 Applied Statistics: students are asking for more solutions. ASV2 said that solutions are available for the pen and paper exercises, but he is not intending to give computer based solutions as staff are available to help students during practicals.
- Rooms – Students are not happy with EL 0.26 for the MA266 Monday afternoon class as it is uncomfortably large for the cohort.
- Rooms – The MA/MT256 Hydrodynamics 1 class in HO A12 – the Wifi performance is poor in that venue and Simon Cox has to restart his tablet 4/5 times each session.
- Hydrodynamics 1 students are asking for past paper solutions. If students submit past papers, Simon does mark them but the past paper solutions are not made available during the module: RSD noted that Simon is

following one of the departmental approved options. Subsequent to the meeting, Simon confirmed that some past papers solutions will be made available at the conclusion of the module.

- Hydrodynamics and MA257 Advanced Dynamics deadlines are close together, unbalancing workload. During discussions, it emerged that an extra week is given for Advanced Dynamics assignments. Students are encouraged to manage their workload by completing their Advanced Dynamics assignments in “less busy” weeks.

Year 1

No representative present.

Year 0

- Online Blackboard marking inaccurate (after checking with lecturer) in PH06520 Mathematical Methods 2.
- Students didn't realise that they had to consider economics-based applications of mathematics in module MA036. (This module is twinned with MA136, which is taken by Economics students.) Changes are likely in years to come as MA136 is dwindling to small numbers.
- Lecturers not responding to emails in PH010 Introduction to Physical Forces and PH030 Introduction to Physics of Matter.

Action: RSD to raise issues with level 0 Physics modules with Physics DLT.

Welsh Medium

- In the library, there is only one copy of 'Mathematical Biology' by Murray, J.D., for the module MA34810 Mathematical Biology; additional copies are requested. SIF4 asked that he be emailed with the details.

Postgraduate

No issues raised.

MathSoc

Lecturers had been asked (and had agreed) to give talks about their research.

22. Surveys

NSS

- As of 25/2/19, 78% of finalists had filled in the National Student Survey. Student representatives were thanked for encouraging their peers to complete the survey. The Coffee and Cake event (5/2) was well supported this year.

MEQ report

- We are soon to have another round of elections for SSCC. It has not worked well for Maths in the past.
- Timetabling continues to be a big concern – some students in year 1 have 6 consecutive hours on Fridays.
- Panopto recording of whiteboards (visibility): students reported that LL A6 is now just about readable; Biology Main (EL 0.26) not great; MP 0.15 camera crops off part of the board.
- Blackboard – there is currently a big push for uniformity across Blackboard sites. There will be a new template across all of Part 2. All former content will be deleted. There will not be time for the lecturers to put up similar content (time spent modifying Blackboard would mean less time focusing on face-to-face and other contact with students). Lecturers and students unhappy with this. Students can email Tim Woods (tww@aber.ac.uk) on behalf of SSCC to object.

Action: Student representatives to email Tim Woods to ask for a change of policy concerning Blank Course Copy.

- MEQ Actions for individual modules were reviewed; they can also be found online.

23. **Employability**

- There have been 2 events but they have not been well attended – only 1 person turned up for a talk with an alumnus. Please encourage students to attend talks (especially when it is an alumnus).
- The next careers event is on Tuesday 26 March from 11am – 3pm in the Arts Centre Great Hall.
- Departmental drop in sessions every other Monday, 10.30am to 11.30am, in the Physical Sciences building foyer.

24. **Staff matters**

- Please send book requests to the library. There will be extended opening hours in the Hugh Owen library during the Easter break.
- Attendance in some modules is disappointing, particularly in Year 2. Some Year 2 students are undertaking a considerable number of hours of part-time work.
- Some third year students are not handing in work despite encouragement from lecturers.
- Pigeon holes are getting full with returned marked work, please encourage fellow students to collect.

25. **AOB**

The next meeting will be Wednesday of week 10 (April 3rd).

26. **Actions carried forward**

Minute Number	Action	Whose Action	Action Status
21	Request console in MP 0.10 is moved so fewer seats have restricted view of white boards.	rsd	
21	Consider adding more practical sessions (and reducing lectures) in MA/MT252 for 2019/20.	itd	
21	Raise issues with Physics level 0 modules with Physics DLT.	rsd	
22	Student representatives to email Tim Woods to ask for a change of policy concerning Blackboard Blank Course Copy.	Student representatives	

Meeting Closed