

**Faculty of Business and Physical Sciences**

**Mathematics Student-Staff Consultative Committee  
Wednesday 3 April 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 (PAK25, Year 3 Rep), Kim Kenobi (KIK10, Year 3 tutor), Tudur Davies (ITD, Year 4 tutor), Tirion Roberts (PG Rep), Yuan Shen (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 (Year 2 Tutor), James Owen (Year 3 Rep), Sophie Asquith (Year 1 Rep)

**In attendance:** Shelley Fullwood (Minutes)

**Apologies:** Cameron Wilcox (Year 4 Rep), Morwenna Jeffery (Careers), Georgie Massen (Year 2 Rep), Daniel Skerman (Year 1 Rep), Anwen Thomas (Welsh Medium Rep), Jordan Brennan (Year 0 Rep)

**Agenda**

27. **Minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The minutes were accepted.

28. **Matters arising**

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	Reported in MA370 and MAM70 Lebesgue Integration MEQ Action Plans. Will also be mentioned in Departmental MEQ return. Complete.
21	Consider adding more practical sessions (and reducing lectures) in MA/MT252 for 2019/20.	ITD	Practical sessions increased from two to four in 2019/20. Complete.
21	Raise issues with Physics level 0 modules with Physics DLT.	RSD	Email sent; no reply. Complete.

22	Student representatives to email Tim Woods to ask for a change of policy concerning Blackboard Course Copy.	Student representatives	PAK25 arranged and attended a meeting with Tim Woods: the outcome was unsatisfactory, standardisation will happen. Simon Cox attended a stakeholder's meeting: some other departments share Mathematics' concerns. After a Senate meeting, Simon explained the Mathematics position to the Vice Chancellor. Complete.
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Matter arising not covered in actions: MA/MT256 Hydrodynamics. Information Services (IS) investigated the wifi problem, but could not find a reproducible problem; their hypothesis is that too many devices were trying to connect to wifi at the same time. Apparently OK now.

The last few lecture slots of the module will be used to review last year's paper.

## 29. Students Matters

### TUN

One received. MA374 Probability and Stochastic Processes had been well lectured, and help offered when needed.

### Year M

Content.

### Year 3

Students hoping that lecturers will release any outstanding model solutions to assignments before Easter (to aid revision). This would be done where practicable.

### Year 2

- Concerns about proximity of exams, some only a couple of days apart. Having exams on alternate days did not seem unreasonable to the committee.
- Representatives sent emails to ask why attendance was low and had 31 responses. Pattern of responses was that there were too many 9am starts, almost every day. People tired by Friday. If there is a big gap between lectures (e.g. 3 hours) then students will go to one or the other as they do not have anything to do during the gap. About 8 students said they are struggling with work (jobs) and study life balance. BAS18 was thanked for presenting (and collating) this feedback. Staff were surprised Year 2 students felt they did not have anything to do in gaps between lectures: regular assignments are set; the library is available for study.

### Year 1

- Timetabling – it was reported that some students had 6 consecutive timetabled hours on a Friday (12pm – 6pm) with no break. This was felt to be unreasonable by the committee.
- People are bringing friends and talking to them during lectures.
- Cold in the Physical Sciences Library; people are talking a lot so others cannot do their work.

### Year 0

No representative present.

### **Welsh Medium**

No representative present.

### **MathSoc**

- End of year meal at the Pier Brasserie on 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Subsidised meals for members, others pay full price.
- MathSoc won SU Academic Society of the Year.

### **PG**

Nothing to report.

## 29. **Surveys**

### **NSS**

- 22nd March figures. G100 response rate at 81.8%, overall response just under 83%. Thank you to all finalists for completing the survey and to student representatives for encouraging people to complete it. (Mathematics had two prize draw winners.)

### **MEQ**

- Summary data presented by RSD. Years 3 and M were content. Few Year 0 returns. Generally appalling completion rate by Year 2.

### **Year 1**

- MA / MT113 Statistics. Penalties for wrong/no answers in the multiple choice assignments were felt to be unfair. This practice will cease.
- MP/MT110 Further Algebra and Calculus considered challenging.
- Some students stop attending if they don't understand something. Staff noted this is a bad idea.
- MP129 Career Skills students find it easier to just go through the notes rather than attend the lectures.
- Students frustrated with Excel explanations. There is a Physics modelling barrier before you get to Excel, and some could not get past this.

### **Year 2**

- MA266 Applied Statistics was popular.

### **Paper Surveys**

- Better response rates from paper surveys.
- Thanks to KIK10 for compiling data.
- Same broad picture as per MEQs (albeit with better focussed questions). Better MP110 feedback scores from Mathematics students; Physics students were more likely to find the starting level high.

## 30. **Employability**

- Thanks to those who attended. Generally disappointing engagement.
- Thanks to Morwenna for her work.
- Careers fair had mixed feedback.

## 31. **Academic rep elections**

Process of nominating representatives closes this coming Monday (8 April) at 9am. Students were encouraged to apply via the Student Union procedures.

32. **Staff Matters**

**Library**

- Noise – happens when staff members are not there.  
**Action: Let SIF4 know of times and they will see what they can do.**
- Hugh Owen (HO) Library has extended opening hours over Easter.
- From June until November, there will be renovations in HO Library.
- Annual push to get more plug sockets in Physical Sciences Library.
- Students said they wish they knew more about how print.aber.ac.uk works in terms of submitting documents.  
**Action: SIF4 said he will look into it and put something together.**

**SU awards**

At the AberSU Staff and Student Awards PAK25 won Student Mentor of the Year, ASV2 the Leading Equality Award. PAK25 was also nominated for Academic Representative of the Year; Maths was nominated for Department of the Year. Congratulations!

33. **AOB**

Thanks to all student representatives for their contribution to SSCC this year.

34. **Actions carried forward**

Minute Number	Action	Whose Action	Action Status
32	Reps to let SIF4 know of particular times that there is noise in the library so something can be done about it	Student representatives	
32	Students said they wish they knew more about how print.aber.ac.uk works in terms of submitting documents. SIF4 said he will look into it and put something together.	SIF4	