

Department of Mathematics Staff-Student Committee

Responses to items raised at the meeting held on 5 October 2011

Item 1 (Year 4) The students asked for more examples in tutorials and another tutorial helper in Maths Biology A.

The lecturer for Mathematical Biology A was informed that students thought an extra PhD assistant would be useful. The lecturer will monitor the need for this.

Item 2 (Year 4) There was a problem with the projector screen in SR 320.

According to the estates office the projector screen in SR 3.20 was fixed on Friday 7 Oct.

Item 7 (Year 3) The students asked for clarification regarding the use of the Vision discussion board in project preparation.

The lecturer said that the groups were encouraged to arrange to physically meet at the drop-in PC lab sessions that were arranged partly for this purpose.

Item 9 (Year 2) The students raised the following points about their courses in general: they requested more explanations/examples in lectures, tutorial sheets on vision sooner (if possible), that lecturers consider using microphones in lectures, a variation in pace of lectures to spend longer on harder topics and less time on easier topics and better explanation of new notation.

One of the lecturers has started using a microphone. The director of studies will liaise with the class representatives about the remaining issues.

Item 10 (General) Leading on from the point about new notation, there was a discussion about when students learn to write mathematics for themselves. It was felt by students that they would benefit from “learning to write mathematics” before they currently meet this topic in project preparation in year 3. One possible alternative could be to move this topic to the problem solving course in year 1. In addition students asked if it would be possible to learn LATEX to type mathematics in projects undertaken in years 3 and 4. It was suggested that a suitable place to learn this could be in the project preparation course in year 3.

The Head of Department will ask the maths departmental learning and teaching committee to consider these proposals.

Martin Youngson
Staff-Student Committee Convenor, 17 October 2011