

Department of Mathematics Staff-Student Committee
Minutes of meeting held on 5 October 2011

	Class	Staff	Students
Present	Year 1	Mark Lawson	Ellen Tait, Yilsu Sarper
	Year 2	Anatoly Konechny	Michael Gillespie
	Year 3	Martin Youngson	Lucy Stone, Ilea Hendon, Carey Toal
	Year 4	Andy White	Katherine Henry, Alexa Stripe
	Year 5	Andrew Lacey	
	MSc	Gabriel Lord	Chris Windeatt, Dimitrios Kalogiros
	School Officer		Kaylea Haynes

Apologies: Tony Haunschmidt (2nd Year Rep), David Potter (3rd Year Rep)

Opening Comments:

As this was the first staff-student committee meeting of the year of the academic year the student representatives were welcomed and thanked for volunteering to represent their year group. The convenor outlined the remit of the committee.

New Items:

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

The 4th year director of studies will speak to the lecturer about this.

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

The 4th year director of studies will report item 2 to the university services responsible for the upkeep of the fabric of the teaching rooms.

- 3. (Year 4)** Students asked if course materials could be made available online in Pure Maths C.

The 4th year director of studies will speak to the lecturer about this.

- 4. (Year 3)** The students asked when the lecturer of stochastic processes intended to send an e-mail to the class that he should not only send it to the AMS students in the class but to the entire class. The students also requested an increase in the number of office hours for this course.

- 5. (Year 3)** The students asked for confirmation that the examples in the tutorials in portfolio theory would accurately reflect the standard of questions in the final exam.

- 6. (Year 3)** The students asked if the tutorials in stats modelling could be handed out earlier and (if appropriate) numerical answers given on the tutorial sheet to allow them to check their solutions.

The 3rd year director of studies will pass on items 3 to 5 to the AMS department.

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

The 3rd year director of studies will ask the lecturer whether he intended that the students use this facility or whether (for example) he intended that they met to discuss their work.

- 8. (Year 3)** The students asked for more information in advance in pure maths B.

The 3rd year director of studies will ask the lecturer if would agree to provide partial notes or a reference to the set textbook in advance of the class.

- 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.

The 2nd year director of studies will speak to the class representatives for more detail of which classes and topics to which these refer and speak to the appropriate lecturers.

- 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 convenor will pass these ideas on to the Head of Department.

- 11. (Year 2)** The students were concerned about noise from the class in lectures particularly in the lecture theatres.

The school officer will discuss with class representatives how this can be at least reduced and preferably eliminated.

- 12. (Year 1)** The students asked for more examples in lectures.

The 1st year director of studies said that he gave more examples in tutorials.

13. (Year 1) The students were disappointed with the lack of elective choice.

The choice of electives was unfortunately curtailed some years ago when other departments stopped offering subjects which had previously been available as electives for maths students.

14. (MSc) The students asked whether the timing of the extra reading in the level 11 subjects could be announced at the start of the semester to help them plan their work load.

The MSc director of studies will discuss this with the lecturers concerned.

15. (General) The subject titles of the finance courses taken by maths with finance students had changed considerably over the summer. There was the possibility that the changes while having no overall impact on students who were on the finance degree might impact students on maths with finance who only did some of the finance subjects.

The class representatives and the school officer will ask if any student on this degree has noted any problems.

16. (General) The exams for students studying psychology in year 3 do not count towards their degree classification. However these same exams do count towards the degree classification of students studying maths with psychology.

The course director for maths with psychology will remind the psychology department of this difference.

Actions: Actions are indicated under specific items. These minutes will be made available on the Staff-Student Committee web page as will responses to the points raised.

Next Meeting: Week 4, Semester 2.

Martin Youngson
Staff-Student Committee Convenor, 5 October 2011