

CONFIRMED MURC AGM Minutes 11/11/2016

Attendance: Andreea Jorga (IT Rep.), Andrew Tweddle (Somerville College Rep.), Liam Stigant (Questionnaire Rep., Jesus College Rep.), Utsav Popat (Treasurer, Maths and Computer Science Rep.), Lily Miles, Maria-Magdalena Stamatova (Publicity and Careers Rep., St Hilda's College Rep.), Dan Fletcher (Arts Rep., Oriel College Rep.), Emily Flicos (Merton College Rep.), Richard Tanburn, Charlie Hutchings (President, Diversity and Inclusion Rep., Outreach Rep., Lincoln College Rep.), Rebecca Burmiston (Secretary, Lady Margaret Hall Rep.), Hannah Merwood (Maths and Statistics Rep.)

Apologies: Sam Davies I Udina (Maths and Philosophy Rep.), Lewis Gaul (Teddy Hall Rep.), Michael Fuller (Pembroke College Rep.)

Meeting commenced at 2.06pm.

1. Minutes of previous meeting
 - a. Minutes approved unanimously
2. Matters arising (points 7-12)
 - a. Examiners Present for whole exam – raised at JCCU
 - i. Last meeting, it was noted that it would be preferable for examiners to be present for the whole exam, not just 30 minutes. This was raised at the JCCU meeting.
 - ii. The department seemed on-board but they can't enforce this as it is a university proctor's rule. However, the department will encourage examiners to stay in exams for longer, specifically telling examiners each time they should do this. This means there may be examiners present for the whole exam this year.
 - iii. It was noted that there was a problem this year with miscommunication after an examiner had left. The department acknowledged the possibility for more mistakes resulting from examiners not being present during exams and want to fix this.
 - b. Tutorials for Part B and C courses – raised at JCCU
 - i. Last meeting, it was noted that it could be unfair some colleges offer tutorials for Part B and C courses but others can't or don't. This was raised at the JCCU meeting.
 - ii. The department said there is nothing they can do – that is "swings and roundabouts" as some colleges may have classes rather than tutorials in first year. It is impossible to force colleges to offer tutorials for Part B and C courses, to expand tutorials to other colleges or stop offering tutorials.
 - iii. It was noted that colleges must run tutorials for visiting students if they are doing Part B/C options.
 - iv. The department also noted that some colleges have tutorials every week, but some offer them every fortnight, and this is not seen as being an issue.
 - v. Overall, the department acknowledged the situation is not ideal but there is nothing they can do about it.
 - c. Part A Short Options Exam – Raised at JCCU
 - i. Last meeting, it was that this paper consists of a large number of questions on a variety of subjects by a variety of people, so it is difficult to scale

- questions, meaning marking could be unfair. This was raised at the JCCU meeting.
- ii. The department said there is nothing they can do to alter the way the exam is marked whilst still giving students such a wide range of short option courses to choose from.
 - iii. It was noted that this was a more widespread problem before current system of Part A courses, with exams of a similar structure previously counting for 25% whereas they now count for 4%. The past structure of exams was changed for this reason.
- d. Status of MURC website
- i. It was noted that the new MURC website has not been updated in a while. It was agreed that the old website should be taken down and replaced with something that redirects to new website.
 - ii. It was also noted that the old website is even more out of date, with someone listed as being an undergraduate now having finished their DPhil. The old website has been kept up until this point as it is the only place with a full list of college reps. It was suggested that this list and the records of previous minutes could be pulled from this website, and then the old website set to redirect to the new website, with everything else on the website deleted. It was noted that it is necessary to make sure we get everything important from the old website as once it is deleted, everything on it will be gone permanently.
 - iii. **Action Point:** Liam to send things to Utsav in order to update the website.
- e. Updates to signatories of HSBC account – Utsav approached HSBC
- i. Utsav went to HSBC to get the signatories form but was told to look at the online form.
 - ii. Currently, MURC has around £500 in the bank and £270 in cash, mainly from the bookstore. It would be agreed some of this £270 would be kept in cash in order to buy supplies for MURC meetings, and some would be deposited in the HSBC account when access to it is regained.
 - iii. **Action Point:** Utsav to look at online forms. Charlie and Rebecca to help if necessary.
3. Appointment of college reps (list colleges with applicants, applicants, person elected, votes and abstentions)
- a. Nominations were opened for the positions of college reps.
 - b. Lily Miles and Richard Tanburn nominated themselves for position of Hertford college rep.
 - i. It was noted they both go to Hertford and study maths, making them suitable for the role. Lily has been president of a society for the past year so knows about emails and badgering people. Richard is a 4th year so been here longer (although is less likely to make all meetings) but really wants the job, and has experience organising as part of the boat club.
 - ii. Both were asked who their favourite lecturer was: Lily said James Martin; Richard said Richard Earl.
 - iii. It was noted that exec positions would be elected directly after, and that the Exec can go to the JCCU and meet Richard Earl. It was also noted many exec positions are currently doubled up.

- iv. Both were asked to rate Charlie out of 10: Lily said 8; Richard said he couldn't give him a number.
- v. An election was duly held.
- vi. Result: 5 votes for Richard, 4 votes for Lily, 0 abstentions. Richard therefore assumed the role of Hertford rep.

4. Exec elections

- a. Treasurer
 - i. Utsav Popat nominated himself for position of treasurer.
 - ii. He noted he had run a successful bookstore which made £270, buys good biscuits, and has been to HSBC twice for 10 minutes each time.
 - iii. An election was duly held.
 - iv. Result: 9 votes in favour, 1 votes against, no abstentions. Utsav was elected.
- b. Secretary
 - i. Rebecca Burmiston nominated herself for the role of secretary.
 - ii. An election was duly held.
 - iii. Result: Rebecca was elected unanimously.
- c. IT Rep.
 - i. Andreea Jorga nominated herself for the role of IT Rep.
 - ii. An election was duly held.
 - iii. Result: Andreea was elected unanimously.
- d. Outreach Rep.
 - i. Lily Miles nominated herself for the role of Outreach Rep.
 - ii. An election was duly held.
 - iii. Result: Lily was elected unanimously.
- e. Publicity and Careers Rep.
 - i. Maria-Magdalena Stamatova nominated herself for the role of Publicity and Careers Rep.
 - ii. An election was duly held.
 - iii. Result: Maria was elected unanimously.
- f. Questionnaire Rep.
 - i. Liam Stigant and Utsav Popat nominated themselves for the role of Questionnaire Rep.
 - ii. Utsav said students now don't have to double click to go to pdfs after his talk with Janet Dyson, so he will be able to fight hard in meetings with her.
 - iii. Liam said he had already spent 40 minutes in a meeting with Janet Dyson about questionnaires, and wants to do this again.
 - iv. An election was duly held.
 - v. Result: 2 votes for Utsav, 5 votes for Liam, 2 abstentions. Liam was elected.
- g. Diversity and Inclusion Rep.
 - i. This election was moved to the next meeting as there were no nominations.
- h. Maths and Computer Science Rep.
 - i. Utsav Popat nominated himself for the role of Maths and Computer Science Rep.
 - ii. An election was duly held.
 - iii. Result: Utsav was elected unanimously (with one abstention)
- i. Maths and Statistics Rep.
 - i. Hannah Merwood nominated herself for the role of Maths and Statistics Rep.

- ii. It was noted that Hannah's favourite lecturer is Vicky Neale.
 - iii. An election was duly held.
 - iv. Result: Hannah was elected unanimously.
- j. Maths and Philosophy Rep.
 - i. This election was moved to the next meeting as there were no Maths and Philosophy students present.
- k. First year Rep.
 - i. This election was moved to the next meeting as there were no first year students present.
- 5. It was noted that the annual report was not prepared yet, but will be next meeting. The constitutional amendment to put the Arts rep on the exec will also be prepared for the next meeting.
- 6. Report from JCCU
 - a. As noted in "Matters Arising"
- 7. Joint maths socials with MURC and other societies
 - a. This would be held to help form relationships with other maths societies (Invariants, Mirzakhani, LGBTQubed)
 - b. It was asked where the money for these socials would come from.
 - i. Past maths socials have been held at Wetherspoons so there was no cost to running them. It was noted this could work for socials with Invariants. For other societies, we may need to do something else but it probably won't be too expensive.
 - c. It was noted that although people may think this is a good idea, turnout could be low. Therefore, to maximise turnout a joint social could be held across all four societies. A social with all four societies could also give more people a chance to find out who to contact about the department, and could get more people to come to MURC meetings. It was noted this could make it easier to fill positions.
 - i. **Action Point:** Charlie to approach all three societies and see what they say.
 - d. It was asked whether the social(s) would be for the admins of the societies, or for all members.
 - i. It was noted that an informal meeting would be ideal. The initial thinking is that the socials would be open to all. The membership of some of the societies is quite large, but a lowkey social event is unlikely to be attractive to a massive number of people. It was noted that Invariants filled the common room for pizza and drinks earlier this year.
 - e. The consensus was in favour of joint maths socials, but even if they don't happen it was noted that it could be good for MURC members to attend meetings of other maths societies.
 - i. An "Other Maths Societies" position was suggested, but it was felt this position could be slightly forced and it would be better for this to be more casual.
 - ii. It was noted that Invariants has good biscuits but not as good as MURC.
 - iii. **Action Point:** All members to encourage other maths students to come to MURC meetings, partially by attending meetings of other maths societies (mainly for Mirzakhani and LGBTQubed, but also for Invariants) if possible. (Mention lecture capture as people get excited about this.)
 - f. It was suggested there could be a maths social formal hall for freshers

- i. It was noted that Invariants are also holding a formal, but not just for freshers.
 - ii. Merton was suggested as a possible location due to its low prices. Christ Church was also suggested due to the grandeur of the hall.
 - iii. **Action Point:** Charlie to contact Christ Church Rep regarding formal.
 - g. It was suggested there could be a formal at the start of 3rd year in order for students to meet others in their classes
 - i. It was suggested this could take the form of casual drinks, as this would enable students to meet more people than at a meal. Several TAs could attend and networking for jobs and future career prospects could occur.
 - ii. In order to help students meet others in their classes more easily, name tags/wristbands with classes students are taking could be given out.
 - iii. It was noted that students not knowing others in their classes is a problem which has been brought up in feedback questionnaires, and this could be a potential solution.
 - iv. **Action Point:** Charlie to ask Helen Lowe about 3rd year socials.
- 8. AOB
 - a. It was noted that lecture theatres can be cold in the mornings.
 - i. It was agreed there is not much we can do about this.
 - b. It was noted some lecturers were uploading zip files instead of pdfs.
 - i. This is inconvenient for many people as it is difficult to open zip files on iPads, phones etc. so makes doing work harder. It was suggested that uploading zip files is probably more convenient for lecturers, but less so for students.
 - ii. **Action Point:** Utsav to email Helen Lowe to find out if this is a system-wide issue or something that lecturers are doing individually, and whether this can be fixed.
 - c. It was suggested there could be more welfare within the maths department
 - i. It was noted that there has been an OUSU table in the Andrew Wiles building so the department is working on this. However, these are OUSU people and not maths-specific people.
 - ii. It was also noted that students may feel more comfortable talking to people on their course – like maths peer supporters. By 4th year, students can feel more a part of the department than part of their college, so may not feel comfortable approaching college welfare.
 - iii. It was suggested current undergraduate peer supporters who study maths (postgrads have their own system) could be found, noting that it could be good to have people in older years in order to help 4th years better.
 - iv. **Action Point:** Bring this up at JCCU. Charlie to email Helen Lowe to let her know about this, or find out if there is something already in place.

Meeting was concluded at 3.30pm.