

# Minutes

1<sup>st</sup> MURC Meeting of Michaelmas Term 2020

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# 1 Attendance

Name	Office(s)
Rodrigo Marlasca Aparicio	President
Heidi Fang	Treasurer
Amirul Adil	Secretary
Rachel Laing	Questionnaire Rep Maths and Stats Rep
Emma Abou-Haidar Ventura	Diversity and Inclusion Rep
Beth Thomas	Outreach Rep
Ryan Salter	IT Officer Fourth Year Rep

## **2 Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Ratified with no objections

## **3 Treatment of Current Third Year Students**

The Third Year students have been asked to complete many important tasks for the beginning of Michaelmas such as exams and project proposals. Students from other years have been given help to adjust to the current situation caused by COVID-19. However, the organisation for the Second Years has not been great. A proposal to send a letter to the Mathematical Institute about these concerns has been made.

A safety net using the third year averages may be a good solution. However, it may be too late for it to be put in action. It also may cause a backlash from being such a sudden change.

## **4 Removal of College Representatives**

The current committee is very cluttered. If we expect all colleges to have a representative, there would be too many members getting involved for the decisions being made. There are currently many vacant positions, creating an image of a lack of involvement in the committee.

Many college reps do not attend meetings. It has been a permanent issue where many MURC meetings have been dominated by the matter of electing college reps. The position itself is there to allow students to voice their concerns about maths in the college but this happens very rarely.

A replacement to the college reps could be to allow non-committee members to attend meetings to express their opinions on various matters. Additionally, instead of being roles that need to be filled, it may be more efficient to make college reps a role that can be applied for. College reps would act as communications for students who would like to get in contact with the committee.

A feedback form on the website would allow students to speak their issues to the committee directly without needing to contact an individual. Emails regarding meetings could link to a google form page about topics that should be discussed.

The constitution should be updated to state that college rep positions are to be applied for rather than roles that are elected.

## **5 Access to Course Notes**

There needs to be an improvement to the distribution of notes by lecturers. Some students, such as blind students, are required to ask lecturers for notes rather than them receiving the notes as soon as possible by default. Lecturers should post their notes a few weeks in advance. All Lecture notes should be typed up so that text-to-speech apps can be used for students who need them. All notes should be written as text files using latex. Notations should also be standardised in and between lecture notes.

Mark schemes need to be transparent and clear when they are published. It should be made clear in a solution how marks marks are given for each part. Lecture notes should be made accessible by the public. Leaving it closed behind canvas creates an eliticism in academia. Public lecture notes would also allow for easier cooperation for research with other universities.

## **6 First Year and Maths and CompSci Reps**

No representatives have been chosen during the previous hosting for either position. A meeting for these positions will be hosted in the next coming weeks.

## **7 Changing the Constitution**

The constitution has many mistakes within it that need to be amended. There currently is no way to remove someone from the position of President. This may lead to some Presidents from going against the best interests of the committee.