

# Faculties of Mathematics, Computer Science & Statistics

## Joint Consultative Committee with Undergraduates

*Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2011*

### **Unconfirmed minutes of meeting**

Present: Mr Ben Hoskin (*MURC President*), Mr Chan-Young Song (*MURC Secretary*), Mr David Hagger (*MURC Questionnaire Rep, Univ*), Dr Peter Neumann (*Faculty Teaching Advisor*), Dr Richard Earl (*Admissions Co-ordinator*), Dr Neil Laws (*Statistics*).

In attendance: Mrs Helen Lowe.

Apologies: *Elena Sizikova (MURC Maths & Comp Rep), Ms Louise Sumner (MPLS)*

#### **1) Meeting held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

##### **a. Minutes of previous meeting**

Under 3.b, Dr Neumann pointed out that many 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who took part in the Part B structured project option have a better picture of what research is like.

#### **2) Reports from the meetings of the Faculty/Teaching/Academic Committees.**

##### **a. Mathematics**

Dr Earl reported that many changes which were discussed previously have now been submitted to the division and, subject to approval, will take effect from 2012:

- 1<sup>st</sup> year students will answer 5 questions out of 7.
- There will be slight reduction in the content of 1<sup>st</sup> year algebra
- Entry requirement for Part C will be changed from 2.2 to 2.1 and this will affect the 2011 1<sup>st</sup> years.
- The changes to the 2<sup>nd</sup> year courses were under discussion.

Dr Neumann suggested that it would be appropriate to acknowledge the hard work Dr Earl has put in to put the changes through to the division.

##### **b. Computer Science**

There was no report.

##### **c. Statistics**

Not much else was to be added.

#### **3) MURC Business**

##### **a. Early Questionnaire forms**

Dr. Neumann reported that this has been discussed with the faculty but wasn't particularly welcomed. It was suggested that the questionnaire could be put online for the tutors. The draft of the questionnaire produced by MURC will be looked over at the Teaching Committee.

##### **b. Specimen Answers for Mods papers**

As suggested in the OUSU report, the specimen answers are being worked on for next term. There was a question of whether this was the department's responsibility or the college tutor's responsibility. Also, it is difficult to see how it can be made useful for students since most of the problems or points to be made are very specific to the context.

**c. Specimen papers for some new Part B and C courses**

MURC reported that some of the new courses have no example papers for students to refer to. It was pointed out that it is a great deal of work for lecturers to produce example papers on top of producing the actual papers for the exam. Dr. Earl suggested that the lecturers can point out, for example, which questions in the problem sheets are in the exam style for the students to refer to.

**d. Part B options fair**

MURC suggested having a Part B options fair in the same way that there will be a Part C options fair. Again there was the question of whether this would usurp the college tutor's responsibility. The main issue was thought to be timing and whether there will be too many people in the room. The possibility of holding such a fair this year to be held in the morning of the day of the Part C options fair will be looked into.<sup>1</sup>

**4) Questionnaires**

Dr Neumann reported that there are a few lecturers who have received some negative feedback in HT 2011. In all such cases, they have been followed up. Overall, very positive feedback has been received. Mr Hagger confirmed this year's success pointing out that out of all the courses in all years; only around 7 courses had negative feedback and that other courses had very positive feedback.

**5) Admissions Co-ordinator's business**

Dr Earl reported that many students came to help at the two maths open days held in Week 1 and 2 this term; the events went very well. Dr Earl thanked the MURC for their help and, in particular, Jamie Potter, who gave a talk.

**6) Part B and C options**

Mrs Helen Lowe reported that draft synopses will be published in week 6 and students will be asked to register for courses by Friday 8th July. She also informed us of the Part C options fair and projects lecture which will be held on Thursday of Week 8.

**7) Induction of first year students in MT 2011**

Dr Earl reported that the representatives of MURC and the Invariants Society are invited to participate at the Undergraduate Induction on Friday of week 0, Michaelmas Term. Mr Hoskin pointed out that it is one of the roles of the MURC publicity officer.

Chan-Young Song, 26/05/2011

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<sup>1</sup> On 26<sup>th</sup> of May, an email has been sent around to the students about the part B options fair which will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> of June.