

## FACULTIES OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

### JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH UNDERGRADUATES

A meeting of this committee was held on **Friday 17 April at 2:00pm** via MS Teams

Attending: Dr Richard Earl, Dr Vicky Neale, James Munro, Prof Mike Giles, Prof Neil Laws, Nathaniel Cleland, Prof Stephen Mulhall, Prof Jan Kristensen, Prof Endre Suli, Barbara Galinska

#### Unconfirmed Minutes

##### 1. Apologies

Chris Fitzpatrick and Nina Tomlin sent their apologies. Rachel Laing was not available at the time selected for the meeting.

##### 2. Introducing ourselves

Dr Richard Earl introduced everyone present.

##### 3. Introductory comments from Head of Department

Prof Mike Giles acknowledged the unusual situation the students are facing and reassured all present that the department was working on finding suitable solutions for everybody. He said that more communications were due to be sent to the student body, and that the proportionate feedback from students was appreciated.

##### 4. Comments from Endre Suli and Vicky Neale re work of the remote teaching group

**Prelims and Part A:** lectures would be pre-recorded and available to students from Panopto, starting from end of Week 0. The MURC president shared student concerns regarding the quality of lectures and legibility of the writing on the boards. Dr Richard Earl explained that any new videos produced will not suffer from issues present in recordings made in large lecture rooms, and added that the lecturers are reviewing all past recordings to ensure they were suitable in the current circumstances.

**Part B and C intercollegiate classes (Week 1):** the classes will be scheduled and run via MS Teams. The lecturers, tutors and TAs will be in touch with students shortly with finalized arrangements.

**Part B and C consultation/revision sessions:** These sessions will also be run via MS Teams, with at least one set of 4 sessions made available for each course. They will be a mixture of interactive sessions, and pre-recorded videos going through exam question solutions. The 2019 exam solutions will also be made available to students.

**Electronic literature:** Prelims and Part A reading lists included on the course materials page for each course have not been linked to these resources, and Part B and Part C include references to SOLO at the end of the lists.

Dr Vicky Neale is currently running MS Team practice sessions, which have proved very helpful and popular (around 60 attendees for staff and over 80 for undergraduate students sessions).

##### 5. Comments from Jan Kristensen re work of the assessment group

Prof Jan Kristensen has acknowledged the concerns raised by students and assured the MURC representative that they were taken into consideration in departmental discussions. Prof Mulhall (Philosophy) and Prof Laws (Statistics) added that their respective departments have very carefully considered the decisions made about their courses, including joint ones. Prof Giles added that the departmental proposals have to be ratified by MPLS division and are therefore bound by their pronouncement.

*Safety net for Part B, Part C and OMMS*

It was noted that the safety net policy is being finalised and is expected to be sent out to students on Monday of Week 0.

*A safety net for Part A exams, and the timing of the exams*

Although there is no safety net planned, at least in the form discussed for Part B and C students, Dr Earl asserted that the department are doing their best to ensure there would be minimal disruptions when timing Part A exams. There were working groups already discussing various ideas for the postponed exams and they will adapt their strategy to the circumstances that will present at the time. The department will notify the students regarding the timing of these exams as soon as the information is available.

The MURC president then asked a specific question about the MTP course; he was directed to email the question to academic admin and the issue would be addressed by the relevant admin.

*Maths and Philosophy reduction in units*

Dr Richard Earl informed the student representative that there had been an update sent through to students regarding the reduction of units for the maths section of Maths and Philosophy course.

*Exam units Registrations*

The exam registrations will happen through an online form, and the joint schools are currently looking at options to produce a unified system. The Academic Administration is aiming for sending out a form at the beginning of Week 1 and to give students a few weeks to complete it. The deadline for entry still needs to be confirmed by the Exam School, but should be known by the time the form is sent out.

*Declared to Deserve Honours option*

This option will be open until the examinations, with a soft deadline afterwards in which case it can still be taken if the student is unable to perform well during their exams and wishes to take this award instead. This option will not be available once the results of examinations and the final award are released. Further details can be found on the COVID-19 University guidance page:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/coronavirus-advice?wssl=1#>

Dr Richard Earl reported on the high response rate (around 80% of students) to a survey concerning student provision with regards to available technology, access to the internet and the suitability of their setting for examinations.

Dr Vicky Neale also added that colleges are surveying what access their students have and what circumstances they found themselves in. This will help colleges to offer better guidance when discussing options with individual students.

**6. MURC business/general discussion**

No further business

**7. A.O.B.**

Dr Munro reported that, as previously intended, student ambassadors would still be involved in running the virtual Open Days and in assisting with answering questions during Q&A sessions.