

## FACULTIES OF MATHEMATICS & STATISTICS

### JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE WITH UNDERGRADUATES

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022, S1.37 Mathematical Institute

**Present:** Prof. Stuart White (Chair), Philipp Wiedemann (Acting MURC Chair), Andy Jung, Sean Gleeson, Prof. Jan Kristensen, Dr Neil Laws, Dr James Munro, Zhe Ooi

**Apologies:** Dr Vicky Neale, Ivan Vasenov

**In attendance:** Clare Sheppard

#### 1. Introductions

The committee members introduced themselves.

#### 2. Membership and remit of JCCU

The Standing Orders were noted, although it was raised that the Chair of JCCU will not be the Chair of Teaching Committee (Prof. Jan Kristensen). It was noted that the junior members of the committee should be the executive members of MURC, ideally one rep for each degree programme. It was agreed that it was crucial that there be six student representatives on JCCU as a minimum. It was agreed that JCMP should be contacted to confirm their representative for this committee.

The responsibilities of the committee were noted – it was raised that this was the forum where students were represented, and that the effectiveness of this should be reviewed.

**ACTION: CS to contact JCMP Chair for JCCU representative.**

#### 3. Meeting held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2022

##### *(a) Minutes*

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

##### *(b) Matters Arising*

None.

#### 4. Part C Progression Requirement

It was noted that examiners are no longer allowed to exercise discretion when deciding progression to Part C, and can only permit exceptional progression as part of the MCE process. As a result the Mathematical Institute is reviewing the progression requirements with the goal to ensure that they are appropriate, and that students are appropriately prepared for Part C. A working group will convene and consider data to decide whether the current progression requirement is appropriate or whether it should be changed. Any formal proposal will come back to JCCU for consideration.

There was a general discussion of potential progression requirements. Some student members noted that Part A exams may not be taken as seriously if results are not considered as part of progression, although it was observed that Part A results are an important part of the overall degree classification awarded after part B. It was noted that it would be important to monitor how the group of students at the threshold of any progression requirements go on to perform in Part C, so that progression requirements can be reviewed in future.

**ACTION: MURC student reps to canvas opinion from student body on progression requirements****5. Reports from the meetings of the Faculty/Teaching/Academic Committees***(a) Mathematics*

The minutes from the Week 2 meeting of Teaching Committee were noted. It was raised that summary sheets will not be allowed in Part B and C exams this year.

*(b) Statistics*

It was raised that hybrid intercollegiate classes were discussed, and it was agreed that these will not run. It was noted that the exam reports were considered, and Department of Statistics representatives for working groups were confirmed.

*(c) Items to refer to Faculty/Teaching/Academic Committees*

None.

**6. MURC Business***(a) Departmental Committee Membership*

It was raised that there are vacancies for student representation on the following departmental committees:

- Art Committee
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee
- Joint Committee for Mathematics and Philosophy
- OMMS

It was agreed that these will be filled once MURC elections have taken place at the end of Michaelmas term.

*(b) Department support for reinvigoration of MURC / elections*

It was raised that MURC membership is low and that it needed to be re-invigorated. A suggestion to run a Fridays @ 2 session later in the term to advertise MURC and the elections has been passed on to the appropriate members of the department for consideration. It was suggested that a termly open meeting could be run by MURC to canvas student opinion and pizza could be provided. It was agreed that MURC should send information for advertising in the student bulletin. It was noted that MURC should also think about their constitution in the light of the fact that MURC represents students on a departmental, not college, level. It was queried whether departmental funds could be used to help MURC run events, and it was noted that departmental fiscal support is not guaranteed, although it may be easier to gain if the event has a purpose to solicit student feedback and representation, rather than a purely social event.

**7. Questionnaires**

It was noted that in the end of term feedback there was a high percentage of students who felt that the Part A workload was too easy. The MURC reps were asked to canvas student opinions on Part A workload.

**ACTION: MURC reps to canvas opinions on Part A workload.****8. Open Days**

It was noted that the Mathematical Institute organises two open days in April in addition to the university open days in the summer. It was proposed that for this year, one departmental open day will be held in person (22<sup>nd</sup> April) and the other to be held online (29<sup>th</sup> April) to maximise attendance. This was approved by the committee, and it was noted that the online option will be attractive for overseas applicants.

**9. AOB**

None.