

## JCCU MEETING – Friday 7th February 1230pm in S1.37

Unfortunately no complete list of attendees or apologies was kept.

### **MURC attendance**

Dr Earl notified the committee that there had recently been two inquorate MURC meetings which was concerning. The current plan was to have another AGM on Monday 4th week, and Dr Earl was keen to know how the departments might help ensure that that meeting would be quorate. The MURC President would inform JCCU promptly about how the Monday meeting goes. It was noted that the President and Secretary are looking to leave roles as soon as possible. Action point: send email re meeting to Dr Earl for forwarding, including list of vacant college roles. Dr Earl would remind people that MURC has had successes in recommending things to the departments that they have adopted.

### **Minutes of Past Meeting**

Dr Earl highlighted that minutes needed to contain a brief summary of discussion, and a decision at the end. It would be appreciated if the JCCU minutes could keep to a standard format. No other issues were raised from the previous minutes.

### **Matters from Teaching Committee**

It was highlighted that there was considerable turnaround in the undergraduate academic administration office. Barbara Galinska had kindly agreed to remain until end of the exam period. There had been a meeting recently with the Departmental Administrator to discuss stress points in the exam period.

Teaching Committee has discussed ongoing discussions with Economics about a Maths and Economics degree, but this would not start for at least a few years. Other discussions had taken place about a possible route from Maths & CompSci to CompSci & Stats, to facilitate more machine learning and data science.

There had been an issue with the number of female lecturers at Prelims and Part A, and the Department was not on track to meet its Athena SWAN requirement. The matter had been passed on to EDI committee to discuss. The situation was unfortunate, and hadn't happened before. Teaching Committee would be guided by EDI. It was not clear how the Department could

go about enforcing the aspiration.

### **Matters from Statistics**

Dr Laws stated that the Actuarial Science course would be dropped as of next year. In general, the number of stats classes given hasn't dropped, and has in fact risen, from 40 to 60 classes over last two years. Actuarial Science would be dropped due to difficulty of finding teaching staff as not the research interest of anyone in the department (incl PhD students), and doesn't lead anywhere in Part C. The course was not particularly needed for students who want to work as actuaries after course. Dr Laws noted further that the rise in number of stats classes is due to more maths students studying stats courses, and number of maths students has increased.

### **Class Registration**

Issues with class registration at Parts B and C were discussed. Dr Earl suggested that in future, if a student failed to submit a form for classes by the deadline, they may not get preferred classes. Problems with number of people missing registration deadline being unable to get desired classes may actually go down with new system, as we would have more time to organise.

### **MURC business**

#### **(a/b) Student Barometer and National Student Survey**

There had been a drop in the number of students who would actively encourage others to take on their course, especially in maths and stats, and somewhat maths and compsci, maths and phil. Stats Teaching Committee had felt this was in contrast with the question "How satisfied are you with the learning experience of your degree", which has not had any change in response.

The MMath had seen a drop on "explanation of marking/assessment criteria", despite no changes in marking practice.

It was noted these data were for between 2017 and 2018, not sure why the data so had been slow to come through. It was felt the results were not particularly enlightening in general.

#### **(c) End of Year Questionnaire Summary**

Dr Neale reminded people that the end of year questionnaires had been introduced to pick up on more general or systemic issues that might not be picked up on by questionnaires about particular lecturers and tutors. A

document summarising the questionnaire results had been sent around to students, as it was important to show students who give feedback what is being done with that feedback. There was nothing particularly for MURC to raise. This year there had been comments about the assessment being overly exam-based and on differential attainment. Some work was done over the summer on this with it currently on hold; the university is working on this, waiting for their report before proceeding. Analysing data for non-gender differential attainment is an ongoing project, and some of the data was not usable due to sample size not being communicated.

Action point: bring end of year questionnaire feedback to MURC for discussion and comment in light of discussion today.

#### **(d) Good Practice Survey**

Gemma asked to pass this on to MURC from the Good Practice Committee about the types of questions that were being asked on the Good Practice, now the EDI, committee. Some edits were suggested.

Action point: It should be made clear that answering e.g. Q33 is not obligatory

#### **Open Days**

Dr Munro stated that students play an important part at departmental open days; prospective applicants valued the opportunity to meet students. The department planned to change recruitment processes for open day helpers, providing child protection training and paying the Oxford living wage. He intended to recruit from existing pool of student ambassadors. Currently he sends an email to all undergraduates, and he is concerned that there may be people who come just for the free lunch, and that people might come without appropriate training. Vast majority of cases this is not an issue.

Instead Dr Munro is considering a model of paying people who come to help out, but that makes it more of a formal role, people would be expected to attend the whole open day, and providing training. This would mean not inviting all undergraduates to attend. Only registered trained ambassadors would be eligible to help at open days. Ambassador training includes child protection measures, but they are not DBS checked. If our open days can't run without undergraduate helpers, which seems to be the case, head administrator of department said that then they ought to be paid and regularised.

Was this likely to affect the number of people helping out at open days?

Most of the helpers have been ambassadors already, so likely not. However, it may make it a less effective way of getting people involved in outreach. He would clarify this at start of year, being clear that people should sign up for ambassador training sufficiently early.

There was a possible conflict of interest issue; should the MURC outreach rep be an ambassador? Paying a MURC rep could be an issue, and impinge on MURC independence.

Action point: This is a discussion to have in MURC.