

Mathematics Undergraduate Representation Committee

Friday 25th November 2011

Unconfirmed minutes of meeting

Attending: Ben Hoskin (*President, LMH*), Chan-Young Song (*Secretary, Balliol*), Young Hyun Choi (*Treasurer, 1st year's rep, St Hilda*), Petra Staynova (*Pembroke, MathPhil Rep*), Eleanor Sizikova (*Maths & Computer Science Rep*), Karyn Cooke (*Publicity officer*), Anne Meiburg (*Lincoln*), Seungjai Lee (*Wadham*), Nimish Telang, Matthew Saxton.

Apologies:, David Haggard, Ben Duffield, Charlotte Hindley, Samiha Ismail

1) Introduction

a. Minutes of previous meeting *Thursday 20th October 2011*

Accepted with few minor corrections: 2) b. i. Lecturer->Tutors; 2) c. ii. Pact->Compact

b. Not Occurring Below

Early feedback lecture questionnaires are now online for lectures to use if they wish. However, it would not be realistic to make it compulsory for all students to fill it.

2) Annual Report from 2011 Committee

a. President

Ben wished to thank all the MURC members for working with him throughout the year.

b. Secretary

Nothing further was reported

c. Treasurer

Treasurer's report is attached below

3) 2012 Executive Committee Elections

President: Chan-Young Song (Unopposed)

Secretary: Young Hyun Choi (Anne Meiburg stood but resigned when Young Hyun also stood as she is leaving this year)

Treasurer: Nimish Telang (Unopposed)

I.T Officer: Samiha Ismail (Unopposed)

Questionnaire Representative: Anne Meiburg (Unopposed)

Open day Representative: Matthew Saxton (Unopposed)

Publicity Officer: Karyn Cooke (Unopposed)

Maths&Comp. Representative: Eleanor Sizikova (Unopposed)

Maths&Phil. Representative: Petra Staynova (Unopposed)

Maths&Stats. Representative: Position Vacant

First Year Representative: Position Vacant

Fourth Year Representative: Seung Jai Lee (Unopposed)

Careers Officer: Eleanor Sizikova (Unopposed)**4) Views on MIT Exchange****a. Various Questions and responses have been raised:**

- i. How will the year in exchange be recognised as a degree?
- ii. What will be the difference between doing 3 years in Oxford then doing a separate Masters course in MIT?
- iii. Some suggested doing 4th year in MIT as an exchange then do another 4th year in Oxford.
The problem of financial expense has been pointed out for this suggestion
- iv. Ben pointed out the students may try and use this as a chance to choose the easy options.
This was responded by pointing out that it would probably be more work to apply and do the exchange so this certainly couldn't be the easy way out.

b. The overall view

It has been agreed that doing an exchange in 3rd year would be better than 4th and that the chance to do an exchange has overall been favored.

5) Informing students about changes in problem sheets

- a. Petra reported that some lecturers (especially in part C) sometimes made changes to problem sheets without informing the students in some way. This left the students to solve questions which weren't discussed or questions which have errors in. It was agreed the best solution would be if the lecturers could send an email notifications on any changes to the problem sheets.

6) JCMP

- a. JCMP favored increasing the number of Maths and Philosophy Part C requisite units from 3 to 4. The main reason is for Maths&Phil students to take with them more from the course.
Petra reported, from a small sample of responses from fellow students, that most were against the change. One of the reason was that Maths&Phil students already have quite limited choices in Part C and increasing the units to 4 would mean the students will be left to choose the units they wished *not* to take rather than choosing what they wished to take.
It was suggested that mandating 3 units but allowing the students to take extra options would be better.

7) On MURC

- a. Petra pointed out that MURC needs to be more accessible and some of the ways to improve this are:
 - i. Updating the out of date posters and putting more posters and MURC notices
Karyn the publicity officer agreed to work on this
 - ii. Including photos of the committees for the MURC website for recognition.
Many people thought this was good idea and this wouldn't be technically difficult to do.
 - iii. Organising MURC termly teas within colleges

Petra suggested looking into the company which contacted MURC last year offering sponsorship.

- iv. Contacting college MURC reps who haven't been in touch for a long time and checking with them whether they are still up for the role and then updating the college rep list.

8) Regarding facilities for undergraduate students

- a. Petra reported that some students expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of facilities available for undergraduate students. The maths institute doesn't have a common room, library, cafeteria, coffee/snack machine nor water dispenser available for undergrads which contrasts many other departments
 - i. Most agreed that a common room, even if it is a small room for undergrads to gather would be nice.
 - ii. Whether the new Maths building will have such facilities for undergrads and whether a common room would be possible for present will be asked in the next JCCU meeting.

9) A.O.B

a. Contacting Taylor's sandwich shop

- i. It was suggested Taylor's sandwich shop across the road from the maths institute could be contacted for the possibility of discounts for maths students.

Nimish agreed to contact the Taylor's shop.

b. General election date

- i. It was suggested we should move the general election date from Michaelmas to Hilary term. The idea was to elect candidates for next year in advance instead of voting at the beginning of the year. This has the advantage for positions such as 4th year reps to have smooth transitions as the previous rep would have left Oxford.

Treasurer's Report		
Balance from MT10	1116.34	
Description	Income	Expenditure
Books sold	207	
Books purchased		223
Snacks and other expenses		7.21
Subtotal	207	230.21
Balance from MT10	1093.13	
*Some discrepancies are in order as books were purchased/sold after the report.		

Chan-Young Song, 20/11/2011