

Mathematics Undergraduate Representation Committee

Thursday 20th October 2011

Confirmed minutes of meeting

Attending: Ben Hoskin (*President, LMH*), Chan-Young Song (*Secretary, Balliol*), Petra Staynova (*Pembroke, MathPhil Rep*), David Hagger (*Questionnaire Rep, Univ*), Eleanor Sizikova (*Maths & Computer Science Rep*), Bryn Horsfield-Schonhut (*St. Hugh's*), Jo French (*Keble*), Anne Meiburg (*Lincoln*), Ben Duffield (*St. John's, Careers*), Kirsti Biggs (*Magdalen*), Seungjai Lee (*Wadham*), Simon Chetwood (*Balliol*).

Apologies: Karyn Cooke

1) Introduction

a. Minutes of previous meeting *Thursday 12th May 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) 3rd and 4th year projects and extended essays

- a. Petra (*Pembroke MathsPhil Rep*) pointed out that the number of hours of tutorial the student receives from doing a project or extended essays which are 1-credit courses is 8. This contrasts with 16 tutorials which the students receive doing 16h lectured courses (also 1-credit).

As a response, MURC wished to know whether students found that this is insufficient amount of tutorials. Especially since the project supervisions were 1 to 1 tutorials which in terms of student-teacher ratio are more focused teaching.

MURC concluded that we need feedbacks from the project students and should make feedback questionnaires for them.

This was added to the agenda for the JCCU meeting.

Seung Jai (*Wadham*) also suggested it would be useful for project students to have the access to the maths institute library.

This was added to the agenda for the JCCU meeting.

3) On feedbacks for Extended essays

Petra brought to attention about the lack of feedbacks on the marking of extended essays. There are sample essays online for reference but it doesn't include any marks for reference.

Mr. Lee added that there's no feedback on the reason why the examined extended essays received such marks. This would be useful for future essays. These points were added to the agenda for the JCCU meeting.

4) Maths&Phil handbook deadline

Petra pointed out that in the MathsPhil handbook, it says that the deadline for applying for extended essays is 3rd week when it is in fact 0th week.

This was emailed to Helen Lowe the very same day.

5) Suggestion for more MURC reps

Petra suggested we should have MURC reps which help foreign students, students with SPLD, students from different backgrounds etc.

To this, it was pointed out that there already is support for SPLD students and 1st year rep should be the MURC rep who helps students from different background to adjust to Oxford mathematics.

If needed, this will be discussed again in the next meeting.

6) Estimating the number of students for lecture

Anne (*Lincoln*) raised the issue of some lectures having too many students for the lecture room. For example, stochastic differential equations lecture was full and some attendees included DPhil students who came for interest.

Chan-Young Song, 20/11/2011