

# Mathematics Undergraduate Representative Committee

## First Meeting of Michaelmas Term • Minutes of Meeting

### 23<sup>th</sup> October 2014

**Present:** Alexander Homer (Secretary, Oriel College Rep), Ryan Murphy (Treasurer), Rosie Ryan Flinn (Maths & Philosophy Rep, Worcester College Rep), Michael Holloway (Questionnaire Rep, St Hugh's College Rep), William Juan (IT Rep, Somerville College Rep), Haengeun Chi (Careers & Publicity Rep, New College Rep), Koen Rijks (Jesus College Rep, deputing for the Secretary), Thomas Chandler (Lincoln College Rep), Jacob Muller (The Queen's College Rep), Chris Williamson (St Edmund Hall Rep), James Lau, Kathryn Poole, Benjamin Spells, Brigitte Stenhouse, Nicholas Williams.

**Apologies for absence:** Niloy Biswas (St John's College Rep)

The meeting commenced at 1:08 pm.

## Minutes and Matters Arising

### 1. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting were amended and **accepted**.

## General Business

### 2. By – elections

David Abed resigned his position as President.

Nominations were opened for the position of President. Alexander Homer nominated himself, and an election was duly held.

Result: Alexander Homer was **unanimously elected**. Alexander Homer therefore assumed the position of President.

Due to this, and the constitutional rule that the roles of president and secretary cannot be held by the same person, Alexander Homer resigned his position as Secretary.

Nominations were opened for the position as Secretary. Koen Rijks nominated himself, and an election was duly held.

Result: **10 in favor and 1 abstention**. Koen Rijks therefore assumed the position of Secretary.

Nominations were opened for the position of Maths and Computer Science Rep. William Juan nominated himself, and an election was duly held.

Result: William Juan was **unanimously elected**. William Juan therefore assumed the position of Maths and Computer Science Rep.

Nominations were opened for the position of Maths and Statistics Rep. Alexander Homer nominated himself, and an election was duly held.

Result: Alexander Homer was **unanimously elected**. Alexander Homer therefore assumed the position of Maths and Statistics Rep.

Nominations were opened for the position of Outreach Rep. James Lau nominated himself, and an election was duly held.

Result: James Lau was **unanimously elected**. James Lau therefore assumed the position of Outreach Rep.

Nominations were opened for the position of 4<sup>th</sup> Year Rep. Rosie Ryan Flinn nominated herself, and an election was duly held.

Result: Rosie Ryan Flinn was **unanimously elected**. Rosie Ryan Flinn therefore assumed the position of 4<sup>th</sup> Year Rep.

### 3. Scheduled Presidential election

It was noted that the constitution dictates that a President is elected in the beginning of Michaelmas term, to allow for a term where the President-Elect can shadow the current President before taking over in Hilary. Due to the current president leaving unexpectedly, and a new President being chosen earlier this meeting, it was proposed that the election for president is to be deferred till Hilary. This was put to a vote, result: **unanimously accepted**.

### 4. College Rep elections

Rosie Ryan Flinn and William Juan resigned their positions as Worcester College Rep and Somerville College Rep, respectively.

Nominations were opened for the position of Hertford College Rep. Kathryn Poole nominated herself, and an election was duly held.

Result: Kathryn Poole was **unanimously elected**. Kathryn Poole therefore assumed the position of Hertford College Rep.

Nominations were opened for the position of Somerville College Rep. Brigitte Stenhouse nominated herself, and an election was duly held.

Result: Brigitte Stenhouse was **unanimously elected**. Brigitte Stenhouse therefore assumed the position of Somerville College Rep.

Nominations were opened for the position of Worcester College Rep. Nicholas Williams nominated himself, and an election was duly held.

Result: Nicholas Williams was **unanimously elected**. Nicholas Williams therefore assumed the position of Worcester College Rep.

## 5. Report from Teaching Committee

Alexander Homer gave his report on the Teaching Committee, which may be summarised as follows:

- There was a proposal to examine the Part C Networks Course solely on projects, instead of examinations due to the lack of available questions.
- The Proctors had found 11 errors in the Maths Papers, this was deemed acceptable as Maths has a high number of examinations. Not one of the errors was substantial.
- It was decided that solutions to the problem sheets should be given to lecturers.

## 6. Report on lecture questionnaires

Michael Holloway gave his termly report on lecture questionnaires, which may be summarised as follows:

- The Prelims course was much improved on last year. Although, Optimisation and Applications had negative feedback, in particular 54% of students felt that the Applications' Problem Sheets were too hard, this is worse than last year.
- Part A, feedback was generally good.

In general feedback was good for courses not mentioned above. It was noted that in Trinity term there are fewer Lecture courses.

## 7. Bank account

It was noted that MURC needs a Bank account, Ryan Murphy went to HSBC to start a bank account for MURC. HSBC said they could only open a bank account if changes were made to our constitution.

The possibility of going to another bank was raised, but then it was concluded that HSBC was the best choice.

Ryan Murphy proposed the changes to the constitution, the changes were put to a vote, and **unanimously accepted. Action: Ryan to amend the constitution.**

## 8. Gender disparity and new MURC rep

Due to the gender disparity in the examination results, an addition to the constitution was proposed of Diversity and Inclusion Rep.

A vote was cast, as to whether this new position should be created, with the proposed constitutional changes.

Result: **unanimously accepted.**

Nominations were opened for the position of Diversity and Inclusions Rep. Benjamin Spells nominated himself, elections were duly held.

Result: **10 in favor, 1 abstention and 1 against.** Benjamin Spells therefore assumed the position of Diversity and Inclusions Rep.

## 9. Class signup

It was noted that in some cases the class signup system caused difficulties to some students.

One example was of a Mathematics student who wanted to sign up for a Computer Science course, and had to be told by a friend that it was a first come, first served situation. In the first lecture, the lecturer had announced that everyone should have already signed up to the classes.

Another example is that for a Mathematics student to sign up to a lecture course given by the Statistics department, they must go to the lectures, and sign up on the spot. This creates complications as students don't have their full schedule in front of them. It was also noted that to access the Stats class lists, students need to be connected to the internet via a university network (this does not include eduroam), which is not always easily accessible.

**Action point: Michael Holloway will put something together for the following JCCU meeting.**

## 10. Split of A1 exam.

The Part A, A1 exam, consisting of Algebra I and Differential Equations I is a joint exam, which lasts 3 hours. Mathematics and Philosophy students take only half of the exam, Algebra I, in a 90 minute exam. It was noted that this led to an advantage for the Mathematics students, as they could allocate more time to these questions (for example by spending 100 minutes on Algebra I, and 80 minutes on Differential Equations I).

It was proposed that MURC recommend this exam be split into two separate exams. The vote went through and was passed **unanimously**.

## 11. Part A review

Our previous Prelim review was highly appreciated, and it was asked if MURC could provide a similar review for the Part A course. It was suggested that as there had only been one year of Part A candidates, it was perhaps too soon to write a review, and therefore it was proposed to postpone this to next calendar year.

## 12. MURC website

William Juan was asked to update the MURC website with the new college reps, and the new executive committee.

## 13. Discussion group

Due to insufficient time, this topic was postponed to the next meeting

## 14. Changes to the constitution

It was noted that there were a two changes to the constitution which had been accepted but hadn't yet been made. The constitution has now been amended.

## 15. Any other business

There being no other business, the meeting was concluded at 2:01 pm.

KR 23/10/2014