

Mathematics Undergraduate Representation Committee

Thursday 1st March 2012

Unconfirmed minutes of meeting

Attending: Jo French (Keble), Bryn Horsfield-Schonhut(*St. Hugh's*), Karyn Cooke (Keble), David Hagger (University), Matthew Saxton (Jesus), Seung Jai Lee (Wadham), Ben Spells (Lincoln), Nimish Telang (Christ Church), Catrin Campbell-Moore (Worcester), Elena Sizikova (St. Anne's), Tom Roger (Worcester), Bogdan Raita (Worcester), Philip Garner (Magdalen)

Apologies: Anne Meiburg (Lincoln)

Introduction

Minutes of previous meeting (*Wk 7, MT11*) were accepted with a minor grammatical mistake

Report on College Reps (Young)

Young pointed out that there are currently 16 colleges not represented in MURC, after removing the people who had not replied to several email asking them of the intention to stay as college representatives.

The committee agreed on actively seeking college representatives by using various resources, including but not limited to:

Email from tutors to students (will email Helene Lowe first of all)

Invariants mailing list

The secretary (Young) will send out notices for vacant positions when he sends out email to maths undergraduates informing them of the MURC meetings.

The issue of whether to re-elect college representatives after a certain period of time was discussed, with the majority in favour of re-election.

Report on MURC introduction in 1st year lectures (Ben Spells)

Ben, after Dr Earl's lecture, advertised MURC for the first-year students

The committee recommended doing the same in the future at the beginning of the academic year and in the middle of Michaelmas term, a couple of weeks before the elections for MURC are held.

Introduction of new members/Elections (incl. College Reps, Open Day Rep)

Philip was elected college representative for Magdalen College

Bogdan and Tom decided to arrange between themselves to co-represent Worcester

Committee photos

Another gentle reminder for all the committees members to send Samiha their pictures

Report on JCCU Meetings:

MIT Exchange: Although a preliminary discussion, it is still in a very early stage with no solid decisions and/or plans in place. The preference of doing this in 3rd year as opposed to 4th year was expressed, but it was also pointed out that doing it in 3rd year might be potentially problematic due to prerequisites for 4th year.

Exam Registration Forms: This issue was expressed to OUSU, Exam Schools and the response from them is that they will consider rectifying the problem if the Department makes it the strong case.

Sample Answers: The faculty fears the potential issue of having sample answers thought of by students as canonical solutions.

Informing students of changes in problem sheets: Prof Neumann agreed that the problem sheets published and posted on the website during a term should be up-to-date for that term.

Lecture questionnaires: The ratings overall improved and one teaching assistant with a unsatisfactory rating by students was informed and fully supported to improve his/her teaching.

National Student Survey: The completion rate for the survey is below the minimum requirement. The committee suggested asking college reps (if there are) to send personalised email to other mathematicians so as to maximise the participation of students.

Bookstalls

Nimish will take care of the bookstalls and update the list of books in stock as soon as possible

Facebook Page

There is a Facebook page for MURC not known to many mathematicians. The committee agreed that this should be another source from which we advertise MURC.

Open Day Rep

The committee agreed that Ben Spells will serve as the Open Day Rep once the current representative finishes his studies and leaves Oxford.

MURC Website

The committee saw the need for updating various parts of the website

The concept of 'data stamp' was suggested, where the visitors to the website can see how up-to-date the information is by looking at the last update date on the page.

Amendment to the constitution

The committee discussed a possible amendment to the constitution regarding the College Rep positions about which the Secretary will write and the committee vote in the next meeting.

MURC Minutes, 7th Week HT 2012

PAGE * MERGEFORMAT 2