

Mathematics Undergraduate Representative Committee

Minutes for Meeting, 7th Week Hilary Term, 1pm, 28th February 2013

Attending: Ben Spells (President, Lincoln), Ed Grant (Treasurer, St Peter's), Joel Cawte (Publicity Officer, Jesus), Dilyana Mincheva (IT Rep, St Hilda's), Tom Roger (Questionnaire Rep, Worcester), Rachel Ahlquist (Maths Phil Rep, Worcester), Lewis Morgan (Maths and Computer Science Rep, Worcester), Teodor von Burg (First Year Rep, Exeter), Florence Driscoll (Fourth Year Rep, Lincoln), William Juan (Somerville), Michael Holloway (St Hugh's), Petru Hlihor (Wadham), Haran Jackson (Hertford)

Apologies for Absence: David Abed (Secretary)

1. Introduction
 - a. Action Points from Last Meeting
 - i. Ben and Dilyana have added a data stamp to the MURC website.
 - ii. Class sign up was discussed at JCCU, the department are aware that it did not work well this term and aim to improve things for next Michaelmas.
 - iii. Paper for exams (lined/plain) was also discussed at JCCU, and will not be changing.
 - b. Recent Business
 - i. Ben attended Teaching Committee – discussed the addition of more hard material to the end parts of exam questions and the possibility of having marks given at the end of questions in Parts A,B and C.
 - c. Election of College Reps – Haran Jackson (Hertford) and Petru Hlihor (Wadham) were elected as college reps.
2. Archive of Lecture Notes
 - a. The possibility of an archive of past lecture notes for maths courses has now been discussed at both JCCU and Teaching Committee and will be going ahead.
 - b. Dr Earl is going to start putting this together over the Easter vac and it is hoped that it will be fully up and running by next Michaelmas.
 - c. The notes will be hosted on the Maths Institute Website.
 - d. **Action Point:** MURC will ask the faculty to concentrate on uploading recent notes for courses which are not currently online.
3. Prelims Workload
 - a. The Prelims course has changed this year, with material added to the course, a higher pass mark in exams and no choice of questions on some exam papers.
 - b. Ben has spoken to Dr Earl about this, and the fact that the course now seems to be harder than in previous years. Dr Earl is aware of this fact and will be an examiner for Prelims.
 - c. **Action Point:** MURC members will continue to monitor the situation and listen to feedback from first years.
4. Constitutional Change
 - a. A motion was passed unanimously to amalgamate the positions of Publicity Officer and Careers Rep in the MURC committee.

- b. Joel Cawte (Publicity Officer) will hold the amalgamated position until the next MURC election.
- 5. Advertising
 - a. It was noted that many students are unaware of MURC. It was discussed how best to advertise the work that we do.
 - b. Possibilities discussed were emails from the Institute, emails from college reps, posters and tutors passing on information.
 - c. **Action Point:** Ben and Joel will draft an email to be sent around by college reps at the beginning of Trinity, publicising the work of MURC. We will engage with colleges without reps via tutors, and will also try to find reps from these colleges through tutors.
- 6. Teaching Awards
 - a. We discussed MURC nominating lecturers/tutors for the upcoming Teaching Awards as a body.
 - b. Suggested faculty members were Richard Earl, Mark Lackenby, Peter Neumann, Philip Maini, Fernando Alday, Anne Henke and John Chapman.
 - c. We will consider these names in more detail at our next meeting and recommend two or three for the Teaching Awards.
- 7. Mark Schemes
 - a. It is becoming more common for MPLS students to be provided with mark schemes/model answers for past exam questions. We discussed whether this is something we would want in Maths.
 - b. It was generally agreed that this would be a positive thing.
 - c. We intend to raise the issue at JCCU and will meet at the beginning of Trinity to discuss the details.
 - d. In addition, we will ask whether problem sheet answers for Part B and C could be made available to students once they have completed the relevant sheets.
- 8. AOB
 - a. Dartington House - Lewis raised the point that while many students currently have classes in Dartington House, undergraduate Bod cards are only activated to allow us into the building, and do not give us access to the upper levels. This means that we can't get to the Seminar Rooms without accompaniment, which can make getting to classes difficult. Is it possible for our cards to be activated so that we can access the Seminar Rooms?
 - b. MURC Committee List – Tom noted that the MURC Committee list in the Maths Institute is from 2010. **Action Point:** Tom to tear down out of date committee list, Joel to print off an updated version and put this up instead.

Meeting Ended: 1.55pm

Next Meeting: 2nd Week Trinity 2013