

# Mathematics Undergraduate Representative Committee

Friday 3rd December 2004

## Present

- [Yael Ukmar](#) (President, Corpus), [John Weir](#) (Secretary, St. John's), [Emma Allum](#) (Univ), [Linda Harrison](#) (St. Hilda's), [Sarah Dixon](#) (St. Hugh's), [Alexander Strawbridge](#) (St. Catz), [Tom Foster](#)(Oriell), [Tyrone Rees](#) (Mansfield), Patricia Farnan (Hertford), Amandeep Dhaliwal (Keble), Sarah Berman (Queens), [Hetal Makwana](#) (St. John's), [Kenji Han](#) (St. Catz), Katherine Leonard (Jesus), Nathaniel Fenton (Mansfield), Adam Lindsay (Keble), [Helene Neufeld](#), [Eleni Kanellopoulou](#)(Somerville), [Anna Duncan](#) (Hertford).

## Apologies for absence

- Rajiv Tanna, [Kalbir Sohi](#)

## Meeting held on 30th April 2004

- The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.
- There were no matters arising from the minutes.

## New committe

- Chairperson: [Helene Neufeld](#)
- Secretary: Katharine Leonard
- Book Stall Manager: [Hetal Makwana](#)
- Treasurer: [Hetal Makwana](#)
- 3 JCCU Reps: Sarah Berman, [Sarah Dixon](#), The third position is still vacant
- Internet Officer: This position is still vacant
- 2 Open Day Co-ordinators: [Anna Duncan](#), It was decided to ask [Steve Paines](#) whether he wants to continue as an open day co-ordinator.
- Questionnaire Representative: [Sarah Dixon](#)
- Mathematics & Computer Science Rep: This position is still vacant
- Mathematics & Philosophy Rep: [Eleni Kanellopoulou](#)
- Computer Science Rep: Adam Lindsay
- Mathematics & Statistics Rep: [Kenji Han](#)
- Fourth Year Rep: [Yael Ukmar](#)

## Web-page for promotional emails

- We now have the basis of a system for dealing with emails promoting recruitment events and job offers, which should be working by Christmas. This will take the form of a comment board on the Mathematical Institute website. It was agreed that this is better than the emails being sent to the general mailing lists, and that there should be a link to this page from the MURC pages.

## Complaint about Part A Differential Equations

- This is in reference to a complaint received by MURC from a joint-schools student on the Part A Differential Equations course.
  - Prerequisites
    - It was noted that students on joint-schools courses have not covered all of the prerequisites for some courses, including differential equations. It was further noted that not all of these prerequisites are listed in the course handbook, especially those courses which are compulsory for students on the Mathematics course. It was decided that this matter should be raised at JCCU.
  - Use of MAPLE
    - It was noted that the syllabus states that MAPLE will be used to illustrate solutions where possible, but that it has not been used. It was noted that this simply implies that it has not been possible to use MAPLE, but that while the statement may be logically correct, it is, nevertheless, misleading. Therefore it was agreed that either MAPLE should be used, or the statement should be removed from the syllabus. This will be raised at JCCU.

## Collecting feedback on the form of the new Part A examinations

- It was suggested that MURC could write a questionnaire and send it to tutors to hand out to their students. The students could either hand them in to their MURC rep, or send them via pigeon post to the questionnaire rep. It was decided that some MURC reps should be appointed to think of the questions. This will be done in the MURC meeting of next term.

## Feedback on the form of the new Part A examinations

- The following feedback was provided by the members of MURC. Most regards the form of the short answer papers. It was generally agreed that 10 questions was too many. It was commented that some questions were much longer than others, and that some of them were very straightforward, whereas others were not. It was also noted that some of them were similar or identical to worked examples in lectures or questions which were suggested for revision, making those questions trivial. Finally, it was suggested that the questions on the short answer papers were too long and the questions on the long answer papers were too short.

## New class system for Part B

- It was suggested that next term a question should be put on the class questionnaires asking for feedback on the new class system for Part B. This will be raised at JCCU.
- It was noted that model answers to questions are handed out in some classes but not others, and it was decided that an enquiry should be made at JCCU as to whether there is an official policy about whether they should be provided.
- It was noted that there have been problems with the odd/even system for classes. Timetable clashes have forced people to switch classes from even weeks to odd weeks or vice versa, and this has resulted in an imbalance in workload.
- Some people complained that it was too hard to concentrate for 1 ½ hours, and that they would prefer to have a one-hour class each week.