

Mathematics Undergraduate Representative Committee

Thursday, 4th March 2010

Unconfirmed Minutes of Meeting

Present: Henry Bradford (*St John's, President (Chair)*), Stephen O'Keeffe (*Hertford, Secretary, Fourth Year Rep.*), Alex Harrison (*Keble, Treasurer*), Samiha Ismail (*Keble, I.T. Officer*), Rosie Cretney (*Queen's, Open Day Co-ordinator*), Petra Staynova (*Pembroke, Maths & Philosophy Rep.*), Shu Zhou (*Mansfield, Maths & Statistics Rep.*), Ben Hoskin (*Lady Margaret Hall, First Year Rep.*), Josephine French (*Keble*), Bryn Horsfield-Schönhut (*St Hugh's*), Michael Kearns (*Hertford*), Wenfei Su (*Corpus Christi*), Chan-Young Song (*Balliol*).

Apologies: Zubin Siganporia (*St Catherine's*), Kirsti Biggs (*Magdalen*).

1. Meeting held on 28th January 2010

(a) Minutes. These were accepted.

(b) Matters Arising.

- Weblearn trial for B6b and B8b Classes. The feedback collected by the college representatives was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that this feedback is mostly positive, although some students still prefer the old sign-up system. This will be passed on to the department.
- Feedback on Marking Criteria. This was also circulated before the meeting. It was noted that the overall response was mixed. Stephen suggested this may be due to the fact there are many different markers in the department and there do not appear to be standard guidelines for them to follow. Henry added that students are often unsure about how much they are allowed to assume when answering exam questions.
- 'Other' Mathematical Options. Henry reported this issue had been raised at JCCU and possible solutions could be investigated (see JCCU Minutes, 05/02/10). He added that Teaching Committee is currently considering the creation of a new half-option at Part B to complement N1 – Undergraduate Ambassadors Scheme.

2. Vacant Committee Positions.

(a) Secretary (From MT 2010). Ben Hoskin was elected unopposed.

3. Constitutional Amendments. Henry proposed the following amendments to the MURC Constitution:

- Insert Paragraph 38: “No member may hold more than one of the posts of President; Secretary or Treasurer simultaneously.”
- Insert Paragraph 41: “Any candidate standing as representative for a joint school must be reading the relevant joint honours degree; any candidate standing as First Year Representative must be in the first year of their degree and any candidate standing for Fourth Year Representative must be in the fourth year of their degree.”

After some discussion, all those present voted unanimously in favour of these changes.

4. Society Sponsorship. Henry reported MURC had been contacted by a company wishing to become its sponsor. It was agreed that MURC should find out more about the company before agreeing to be sponsored by it and the issue of what the potential income should be used for was discussed. Petra suggested spending on publicity and Samiha agreed, adding that MURC could hand out promotional items at Freshers' Fair. Henry suggested using the money to host events for new students or subsidising the cost of society hoodies. Stephen commented that any deal would

have to be approved by the Mathematical Institute and Henry agreed to contact the company concerned with their response.

5.Parts B and C Exam Entry and Project Deadlines

Michael reported that a student had not been informed by the Projects Committee whether their Fourth Year Project title had been accepted until a week after the deadline stated in the Project Guidelines. Henry agreed to raise this at the next meeting of Teaching Committee and added that many students feel the exam entry deadline does not give them enough time to decide whether they are happy with their Hilary Term course choices.

Jo suggested that students could be given more information about Hilary Term courses before the Christmas vacation, such as an options fair or lecture. Bryn reported this already happens on a small scale at St Hugh's College and added that other colleges may be prepared to do something similar.

6.AOB

Henry reported that Teaching Committee has suggested producing an exam preparation leaflet for students and he would circulate example copies after the meeting. He also enquired whether many students would be attending the upcoming Finals Forums. It was reported many Part A students are enthusiastic about attending, whereas this is not the case at Part B, as previous feedback has suggested.

SO'K 09/03/10