



SCHOOL OF MATHEMATICS

STAFF STUDENT COMMITTEE 2010 / 2011

Meeting held 1.00 pm on Wednesday 3rd November 2010
Room 310 Watson Building

MINUTES

Present:

Staff: June Brough (Chair); Natalia Petrovskaya (2nd Year Director); Kay Magaard (3rd/4th Year Director MSci); Jennifer Clerici (Undergraduate Teaching Support Administrator); Sandor Nemeth (3rd Year Director); Paul Flavell; David Leppinen;

Student Representatives: Jason Gray (Year 1); Ondrej Vanek (Year 1); Abdul Amin (Year 2); Alexandra Keynes (Year 2); Veronika Kulinchenco (Year 2); Matthew Ludkin (Year 2); Nabeel Thakur (Year 2); Daniel Curtis (Year 3); Sarah Riley (Year 3); Grace Webster (Year 3); Rebecca Woolley (Year 3); Iram Kauser (year 4)

1. Apologies

Steve Decent (Head of School); Sharon Stephen (HOAP); Jon Bennett (1st Year Director); Deryk Osthus (3rd Year Director BSc); Olga Maleva (Welfare Tutor); Andrew Desborough (Year 1); Adrian Chun Yin Tan (Year 1); Grace Edwards (Year 1); Abbie Phillips (Year 2); Stefan Tutino (Year 2); Thomas Rawlins (Year 2); Jennifer Manu (Year 3)

2. Welcome and Introduction

Brief introduction from all attendees. Photographs of student representatives to be put up on the notice board in the foyer of Watson Building; if students want a different photograph to be used please inform June within the next two weeks by 17th November 2010.

3. MyStudentRep

Guest speaker: Jenny Hughes, Systems Manager, Academic and Student Administration. MyStudentReps is an online tool which enables students to communicate with the student representatives. The School of Mathematics is the second school to pilot MyStudentRep system; feedback from students using the system will be valuable for future use across the University. Representatives will be able to administer MyStudentRep and edit comments made by students. It is advised for student representatives to post 'seed' questions to promote discussion and response on particular topics from fellow students.

4. Student Representative Training

There is training online which, preferably, should be completed as soon as possible which enhances and develops personal, extracurricular, skills. The training gives student representatives points towards a Personal Skill Award. Rob Hunter is the guild vice president who can provide more details on student representative training. The guild requested personal information from student representatives; June explained it is appropriate to supply confidential information. Students were asked to sign allowing the Guild to contact them via email.

5. First year issues

Students are concerned what will happen now that Tony Gardiner has left, June reassured them that tutees will be assigned to a new tutor very shortly and all courses will be covered by other staff. Students requested all lecture material to be made available on Web CT if students miss lectures due to illness; however, it is not mandatory for staff to do this. It was advised by Paul Flavell that to catch up on missed work students would be expected to obtain copies of notes from other students if notes are not available on WebCT, or printed. June said that if students are missing lectures due to illness they must contact the welfare officer.

6. Second year issues

Tuesday afternoons involve students sitting five continuous hours of lectures in rooms across campus. Staff sympathise with students but unfortunately, due to University block timetabling and room allocation, this arrangement cannot be altered.

7. Third year issues

Feedback from questionnaires will take lecturers some time to relay back to the students.

8. Fourth year issues

Dr. Goodwin is the careers tutor and it has been noted that some students feel he does not provide the advice they require. It was advised for students to liaise with either the University careers department or the external careers tutor, Sadaf Alvi, who is available one day a week. June will pass on the students' concerns but mentioned that Dr. Goodwin's role is to disseminate careers information to students and to get them to think about their career which has been achieved.

9. Any other business

- i. Students can help themselves to a free lanyard if they wish.
- ii. As part of the students' development programme student representatives have the chance to chair the School of Mathematics SSCC meeting. June requested anyone interested to speak to her about this in further detail.
- iii. Maths Learning Centre – there are complaints that the computers run slowly and they do not have Microsoft Office 2007. June informed the representatives that there will be an upgrade at some point but an exact date is unknown, she will pass on the comments to the I. T. department. If the printer does not work students are advised to use the contact help sheet which should be found next to the printer. If the MLC is too noisy please ask fellow students to quieten down or seek assistance from a member of staff.

10. Date of next meeting: 1st December 2010