Minutes

School Meeting

12.00noon, Friday, 17 July 2015, MLR1

Present: John Bamberg, Andrew Bassom, Tania Blackwell (Minutes), Alice Devillers, Nev Fowkes, Des Hill, Miccal Matthews, Lyle Noakes, Michael Small, Thomas Stemler, Lucho Stoyanov, Berwin Turlach, Matt Tuson

1. Apologies


2. Confirmation of Minutes from 9 April 2015 and Business Arising from the Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 April 2015 were accepted as a correct record.

3. Head of School Report (Lyle Noakes)

- We recently learnt that Malcolm Hood’s wife Mirlwyn passed away in June. Malcolm was an important member of the School for many years. A card has been sent to Malcolm on behalf of the School.
• Andrew Bassom will be leaving at the end of the year to take up a position at the University of Tasmania. Andrew has provided terrific service, teaching and scholarship to the School. We will be sad to see Andrew go and he will be missed.

• The Dean has agreed to fast-track an appointment for a replacement Level E in Applied. The Applied B/C position that was being advertised will now be held over so the new level E can have input into this appointment.

• We have been invited by the Dean to make a business case for any new appointments judged necessary by the School (further details provided in the Program Chair update). It would be very difficult to make a business case for any new appointments against the current background. We have put forward an academic case for a new appointment in analysis but haven’t had a response yet. The focus for new appointments appears to be directed to areas where they can generate large numbers of students and it has been suggested that for Maths & Stats Big Data might be such an area.

• The Faculty expects Teaching & Research staff to spend 40% of their time on research, 40% on teaching and 20% on service. Service does include activities such as the enrichment courses which are
going ahead in Semester 2. Many thanks to the staff who are contributing to that. Staff who are not doing service will be required to do so and service will be reviewed as part of the PDA.

- The Faculty are reviewing Adjunct positions and this is an area that they are taking seriously. Adjunct staff will be expected to make meaningful contributions to the School otherwise they will not be appointed or have their position extended. In return Adjunct staff will receive shared office space, use of computer and library facilities and use of the University by-line when publishing papers.

- The Faculty is looking into rewards for excellent teaching as staff who perform outstanding teaching should be recognised in the same way as excellent researchers.

- The building works due to commence in the Maths office have been delayed until possibly the end of the year due to problems with the budget

- John Bamberg has taken on the organisation of the Maths & Stats display at Open Day. This is a significant amount of service on top of the service that John already performs so please help out as much as possible

- Des will be on long service leave during Semester 2. Nazim Khan will be Acting Program Chair.
4. Undergraduate Matters (Des Hill)

- In 2017 Deakin University will have no lectures, everything will be run online. It will be interesting to observe.
- UWA is about to review the structure of the teaching year and how they would like teaching periods structured. The report is due in 2017.
- There are currently between 12-15 students in the QM major.
- Alice Devillers recently held a prospective honours meeting. Numbers are looking positive for 2016. Two applications for mid-year entry have been received. We are waiting on approval from the Faculty Office.
- The draft 2016 lecture allocation was presented. There are still a number of vacancies, in particular for first year units. Also included on the allocation are some CSSE units. Maths & Stats staff have been allocated to these units as according to the ECM Workload Model our teaching workloads aren’t high enough.
- This year we have received funds from the Faculty to employ a casual lecturer for MATH1720 however next year we will be expected to cover all teaching from T&R staff. STAT1520 and MATH1720 do have
special requirements so it’s important that we get the correct staff on these units.

- Des is currently on an Assessment Review Committee for the University. The current feeling seems to be that they would like to discourage scaling but will stop short of barring it completely. General discussion at Faculty Education Committee meetings indicates that they would like to retain scaling.

- To reduce the difficulty in appointing a staff member to MATH1720 next year it was suggested that lectures for this unit be made available to students online and then have workshops for the students to interact with staff. The workshops could then be shared amongst several staff members. This is a large unit and will probably only get larger so it is important that a good job be done with this unit but after discussion it was agreed that if set up correctly this format would work well. Set-up would include extensive use of the appropriate questions in MyMathLab.
5. Postgraduate Matters (Thomas Stemler)

Thomas Stemler is Acting Postgraduate Co-ordinator while Michael Giudici is on leave. No matters to report at this stage.

6. Outreach Committee report (John Bamberg)

An event was held in April for students from Busselton. Joanna Fawcett assisted and the event went well.

7. Any Other Business

The delay in works to the office area will delay the move of CSSE to the building.

Meeting closed 1.00pm.