Minutes
School Meeting

12.00noon, Wednesday, 28 September 2016, Maths Lecture Room 1


1. Apologies
Chrianna Bharat, Michael Giudici, Nazim Khan, Luke Morgan, Gopal Nair, Tony Pakes, Tomasz Popiel, Cheryl Praeger, Phillip Schultz, Michael Small, Thomas Stemler, Berwin Turlach, Matt Tuson,

2. Confirmation of Minutes from 20 July 2016 and Business Arising from the Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2016 were confirmed as a true and correct record.

3. Head of School Report (Lyle Noakes)
Welcome to Professor Snezhana Abarzhi, our new Professor of Applied Mathematics. Snezhana will be leading one of two groups within Applied Mathematics.

EZone – you will have received an email this morning regarding the decanting of the Mathematics building. The entire building, including lecture theatres, is being refurbished so all staff and students will be moved out to COFS and Oceans Institute while this work is done over the summer break. The moving will start in mid-late October with staff involved in exam marking being the last to move in late November/early December. The work is due to finish just before the start of Semester 1, 2017. We have expressed our concern that we be relocated back to this building before semester starts next year and this concern has been noted.

As part of the UWA Renewal process the School of Physics will be joining the Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. Independently of that Physics and Mathematics and Statistics will be sharing the teaching of some units. Both Schools are quite small with overlapping interests and the plan is to co-ordinate teaching so that 4th year students can take units from either School. This should enable us to offer an extended range of units to students. A committee has been formed to discuss this and will be meeting shortly.

A Committee has also been formed to look into changes to our first year units for 2018. Currently we have MATH1001 and MATH1002 which cater for the engineering students and don’t serve our very best students particularly well. The Committee will look at developing units that target the best mathematical and statistical students. As long as these units are
well populated we can justify them, however there are complexities as these students would still need to be able to progress to an engineering degree if this wish. Gordon Royle is Chairing this Committee.

The proposal for Mathematics and Statistics units to be eligible as broadening units throughout the entire University has received high level support and is due to go before Academic Council. If approved this benefits the School as it allows engineering students to pick up additional maths units. This would come into effect in 2018. The students doing the extended engineering major won’t have room in their study plan for these units but they already do additional engineering units and the additional MM3 maths unit. Quite a lot of engineering students will be doing MM3 so there will be an increase in numbers there.

We have received a request from Melinda Hodkiewicz for more statistics to support the level 5 Risk, Reliability and Safety students as they don’t get sufficient preparation for this unit. Nazim Khan has been liaising with the Faculty regarding this. The statisticians suggested these students could take STAT1400 as based on conversations Kevin Murray has had with Melinda this unit offers the content that she requires. The unit could be re-badged if necessary but this will require further discussions with Melinda. Ideally these students should be taking MM1, MM2 and STAT1400.

There is interest in putting up a Data Analysis unit which would be an elective. There is support from the Faculty for more mathematics in the Masters of Data Science and the Data Analysis unit could be used for this. We currently offer 2 units in the Masters of Data Science but we should be thinking about how we can contribute more.

The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement 2016 is currently being negotiated. Details are available on the website. Some of the items being discussed are – there will be more pressure for staff to take annual leave; the proceedings for dealing with unsatisfactory performance will be streamlined; the NTEU are interested in putting forward a request for part-time and casual staff to be made ongoing after a certain amount of service.

Lucho Stoyanov reported on an internship available from AMSI and an information sheet was made available at the meeting. The internship involves a short project allowing PhD students to work with industry for 4-5 months. The students will receive financial support, gain the opportunity to see how industry works and possibly the opportunity for future employment. This is for PhD students and some Masters students will be eligible. Some PhD students who have fellowships or scholarships have restrictions on the amount of income they can receive on top of that so we are looking into that aspect. This project shouldn’t affect the timing of their PhD. There are 3 models for the funding, details of which are available on the AMSI webpage.

4. **UWA Renewal Project (Lyle Noakes)**

As part of the UWA Renewal Process, Physics will be joining the Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences. Education will no longer be joining this Faculty. There is still considerable turmoil throughout the university relating to the Renewal Project, in particular for professional staff at the moment. Another consequence of the renewal is discussion
within the Faculty of how it will be run. This is still not clear but it is possible that there will be mergers between Schools.

As part of the UWA renewal project the University advised that 50 new academic appointments would be made. The Faculty is putting forward a proposal for 4 of these positions and the School is currently negotiating for one of these positions to be in Mathematics and Statistics, in particular a level E in Statistics with a focus on data science. The School is also negotiating very strong for Kevin Murray’s position to be replaced.

5. Undergraduate Matters (Des Hill)

Mathematics and Statistics units as broadening units are currently on the Academic Council circular. The deadline for objections to this proposal is 4 October. This would only apply to mathematics and statistics units taught by this school.

Des will be in touch with John Lau to organise the prospective honours student meeting.

Des is currently preparing the exam marking allocation for Semester 2, 2016. The Faculty rule is being followed which states that unit co-ordinators and lecturers mark the first 100 exam scripts and casual markers will be engaged to mark the remainder.

6. Outreach Committee report

Nothing to report.

7. Health and Safety

Nothing to report, the next meeting is scheduled for 10 October.

8. Any Other Business

WAJO is scheduled for 29 October 2106. Assistance is still needed on the day, if you are available to help out please let Miccal know.

Meeting closed 12.45pm.