Minutes
School Meeting
15 December 2014, 12.00noon MLR1


1. Apologies

Ed Cripps, Joanna Fawcett, Nazim Khan, John Lau, Cai Heng Li, Kevin Murray, Lyle Noakes, Tony Pakes, Irene Pivotto, Phill Schultz, Gabriel Verret.

2. Confirmation of Minutes from 3 October 2014 and Business Arising

The minutes were accepted as a correct record.

Business Arising
At the last meeting there was no news concerning the Head of School position. It has now been confirmed that Andrew will be finishing as HOS on 31 December 2014 and Lyle Noakes will commence as HOS on 1 January 2015. Best wishes to Lyle.

There hasn’t been a lot of progress yet on the replacement staff for the School but we will be requesting one position in applied mathematics and one position in pure mathematics in the area of analysis.

PDA – staff who have not yet completed a PDA for 2014 will need to have one done prior to the Christmas break or very early next year.

3. HOS Report

Congratulations to Cheryl Praeger who has been awarded the George Szekeres Medal by the Australian Mathematical Society for an outstanding career in the mathematical sciences.

Congratulations to Michael Giudici and Ed Cripps on their recent promotions.

Congratulations to Michael Giudici, Cai Heng Li and Gabriel Verret on securing an ARC Discovery Grant.

Alice Niemeyer leaves the School at the end of the year to take up a new position overseas. Alice has done a lot for the School in her time here and will be missed but best wishes were given for the next stage of her career.

A provisional teaching allocation for 2015 has been circulated. There are still some
Research monies from the Faculty has been paid into staff grants. If you are expecting funds please check to ensure they have been received.

Some funds still remain in the HOS PG. If you have a project that you would like some funding for please email Andrew with the details.

Andrew thanked the staff for their support over the last few years and wished Lyle well as incoming HOS.

4. Undergraduate Matters

Enrolment numbers are coming in slowly. Continuing students have to enrol by 17 January but there is a late enrolment period after that and that goes through until the second week of semester. This makes it very difficult to get accurate enrolment figures at the moment but they do look a little bit lower.

Numbers for ‘Intro to Applied Maths’, ‘Intro to Pure Maths’ and third year units are quite a bit lower which is worrying. At this stage numbers for ‘Applied Stats’ look about the same.

A number of units had to be scaled this semester to bring them in line with the Faculty scaling policy, despite requests from UC for them to remain outside the policy. It doesn’t appear that the scaling policy will change under the current Faculty leadership team. The only argument that will be accepted for moving marks outside of the policy is by proving that the current cohort of students is significantly different than in previous years.

Lyle has asked Des to continue as Director of Undergraduate Studies and also to take on the role of Deputy Head and Des has accepted. Des will be on Long Service Leave from August-October (inclusive) next year so a replacement will be needed for this period. The role consists mainly of student advising.

Numbers for the Applied Statistics and Quantitative Methods (QM) majors are lower than in previous years with no one doing the QM major at this stage. There is going to be a review of all majors in Semester 1, 2015.

Honours numbers are not good for Maths for 2015. There are 9 BPhil students who could do a Maths & Stats major but most are choosing to do Physics. Physics are very good at maintaining contact with, and advising their students. We do have some Honours students coming in from external institutions to do statistics so Honours in statistics looks pretty good but there will only be 1 Pure honours student and none in Applied. Third year looks pretty encouraging so we will be seeking feedback on where we are going wrong. It was suggested that at the Honours expo that Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science should have a joint presentation which is separate from the engineering presentation.
5. **Postgraduate Matters**

The Graduate Research School is trying to move away from paperwork and as a result a lot of forms for postgraduate student will now be completed online via Callista. Supervisors will need to log on to Callista to approve these documents.

The ECM Student Affairs team now have staff who are looking after HDR enquiries. Any queries received from students regarding Masters or PhD studies should be forwarded to hdr-ecm@uwa.edu.au. The Student Affairs staff will email the students advising them on the correct way of applying for postgraduate study and keep track of the enquiries.

6. **Outreach Committee Report**

Since the last meeting (9th September, 2014) we have had a number of outreach events.

(1) **Showcase of Modern Mathematics (November 3rd, 2014)**

Approximately 200 year 9/10 students from a diverse list of schools attended our main promotional event. It consisted of six activities, of which each student will see four of them. We also had a 30 minute talk by Shreya Bhattarai on the use of mathematics in his profession. The activities were:

- Nim and game theory: Alice Devillers and Joanna Fawcett
- Codes and ciphers: Michael Giudici and Michael Small
- Making the best of it: John Bamberg and Michael Martis
- Counting M&M's: Julie Marsh
- Fractals: Thomas Stemler
- An introduction to Mathematica: Blaker Segler and Duncan Beckham

All session leaders felt that it was a resounding success this year.

We would like to especially point out the excellent work done by the faculty external relations team, especially Zahra Mansurali and Rose Nightingale. We should also thank the help by members of the UWA Maths Union who were group leaders for the whole activity: Melissa Lee, Michael Taran, Mitchell Chiew, Kyle Rosa, Jack Lee-Kopij, Jarrad Phoebe. It was their efforts that made the difference for this event.
(2) Penrhos College visit

15 students from Penrhos College visited us on November 27. John Bamberg ran the Nim activity.

(3) A collective of Mensa and home-schooled year 6/7 students (organised by Tammy Johnson) visited us on November 27.

Michael Small ran the Nim activity.

(4) WAJO

This year we had 444 students from 37 schools and the day ran very smoothly. We also had help on the day from many members of staff, which is greatly appreciated.

7. Any Other Business

The School expressed their thanks to Andrew Bassom for his role as Head of School over the last six years and wished him a relaxing 2015.

Meeting closed 12.30pm.