Minutes
School Meeting
3. October 2014, 12:00 MLR3

Present:

Apologies:
Phill Schultz, Michael Giudici, Des Hill, Neville Fowkes, Gordon Royle

Confirmation of Minutes 24th July:
Minutes were accepted and confirmed.

Matters arising from the minutes:
Andrew Bassom reported:

- No further news to add concerning the next HoS.
- No news on the replacement of Song Wang although an appointment is expected in due course.
- At the last School meeting it was reported that the SURF scores on S1 units were better than in previous year. In order to ensure teaching standards, units with Surf scores of less 2.8 on one or more of the six have to be reviewed and action plans drawn up as to how to improve the unit. Six of our units need to be reviewed. (Two of those are no longer taught.) The main problem on the Surf scores for our units is Question 5, asking whether the unit resources were sufficient. Students want more examples. Response: We will provide more examples!
- The New exam checking method has been implemented and appears to be working.
• Terry Speed is visiting UWA and giving talks on 8/9 Oct. The HoS encouraged school members to attend.

• Peer assessment of tutoring in MM1 and MM2 has taken place. The feedback from a quick meeting before the teaching break indicated that this was a useful thing to do.

• The HoS proposed to conduct Peer Review of all lecturers from S1 2015 onwards. Nobody raised objections to this proposal so the intention is to roll this out.

**HOS Report:**

Des Hill has almost completed exam marking allocation. Staff members will be informed of their allocations soon.

PDA: Come to sudden halt. Staff only requiring a regular PDR (old style) should stop. Staff needing a PAR for study leave, promotion, or a similar reason should however continue to do their PDA.

The University’s promotion procedure is likely to change once the new PDA system is developed and there is a chance that promotion will prove a more onerous procedure. Consequently he HoS advised staff who are thinking about promotion in the next 12 months, to apply soon. Forms should be submitted before the new system is adopted.

Change of Academic Titles: The University is encouraging staff to revert to the old academic titles, but leaves the decision whether or not to revert up to individuals. The strong recommendation is to go back to the traditional titles because there is some evidence that staff with the new titles are been unfairly compared to staff at other universities with similar names but actually of more seniority. It is possible that those who retain the new titles may be putting themselves at a disadvantage staff in competition for grants.

The University Executive is pushing faculties to set challenging research targets and has compiled a long list of possible targets of which the Faculty will select a few. The final targets are likely to include items like the proportion of work in the top 20% of journals by impact factor (relative to field of research), the number papers published and some measure of consultancy activities. The Dean would like all disciplines in the faculty to have an ERA score of at least 4 as soon as practicable.
Safety issues: The recent fire drill was a success despite the woefully inadequate noise level of the alarm. This has been reported to the Safety Committee.

John Bamberg has offered to be First aid officer and Thomas Stemler is to take over as Director of Building.

Undergraduate matters:

Computer Aided Assessment next year.

L. Stoyanov reported that we will try to replace Calmaeth by MyMathLab (Pearson Education). It is used currently to offer students more material to practise. MyMathLab has improved a lot since our last trial. It was suggested to use MyMathLab from next year for weekly assignments and later also for tests. Summary of current assessment.

**Assessment in MATH1001 and MATH1002 in 2015**

After a discussion involving the lecturers in MATH1001 and MATH1002 in 2014, the HoS and Des Hill, the following assessment is suggested for these two units in 2015:

Replace the three Calmaeth tests by multiple choice tests.

1. Written 3 hours exam - 60% (1/4 of the exam will consist of multiple choice questions)
2. Online assignments in MyMathLab - 10%
3. One Multiple Choice Test - 10%
   possibly marked by Uniprint.
4. One Written Test (60 min.) - 15%
5. Tutorial attendance - 5%.

Faculty will discuss approval for funding MyMathLab next week (now approved)

Alice Devillers mentioned that another option is to trial MyMathLab for the test.

John Bamberg inquired about the Essential Skills test currently conducted early year MM1 using Calmaeth. Lucho Stoyanov explained we can easily use MyMathLab for such tests, but we have to test the logistics first.
The suggestion is as a first step to use it for online assignment and concurrently try out the test facility of MyMathLab. Then second step to use MyMathLab for everything. Another option is to use Multiple Choice.

**Outreach Committee Report:**

Nov 3rd. Activities

For the outreach event on 3rd November the Statistics section was asked to identify one speaker.

The External Relations Committee has been approached by Terry Blakers to conduct an unveiling of a donated bust of Larry Blakers. The committee is hoping it could go into Maths Foyer. Another possibility is to set up the bust outside of Blakers’ LT, however it is not clear whether it is rain proof.

There were some complaints that liaison with the external relations committee of the Faculty is difficult owing to the frequent turnover of staff.

The WAJO is held on 1st November. Volunteers are required to help on the day.

**Any Other Business:**

The School had put forward a proposal to the Faculty that the Statistics content be dropped in MM2, as the unit already contains a vast amount of material. However it appears that the content of the unit will have to remain as is at least in the short term.

Alice Devillers mentioned that requirement for Honours students need to be put forward in a school proposal in writing. Currently we will have old and new thesis requirements simultaneously.

Meeting closed at 12:45.