

Minutes

School Meeting

3.00pm, 6 May 2011, Blakers Lecture Theatre

Present: John Bamberg, Andrew Bassom (Chair), Tania Blackwell (Minutes), Alice Devillers, Nev Fowkes, Michael Giudici, Des Hill, Les Jennings, Kevin Judd, Nazim Khan, John Lau, Cai Heng Li, Robin Milne, Kevin Murray, Gopal Nair, Lyle Noakes, Cheryl Praeger, Melanie Roberts, Gordon Royle, Con Savas, James Springham, Thomas Stemler, Lucho Stoyanov, Steve Su, Christian Thomas, Berwin Turlach, Song Wang

1. Apologies

Wally Andrioni, Kathleen Chindarsi, Ed Cripps, Phill Schultz

2. HOS Report

Welcome back Kevin Judd. Kevin will be working half-time for the first couple of months. Kevin's main focus will be getting the New Courses 2012 back on track.

The Head of School asked Con Savas to report on computing issues:

Email migration – this is progressing well, it's about 20% done. We hope to migrate everyone in the next couple of months. The email server will be left on for another six months. Once the email server is turned off aliases for any staffmember@maths addresses will exist on the central server for about 2 years so mail won't be lost. Anyone who leaves the School or who does not have an official position will lose email. Postgraduate students will be migrated to the student server unless they also have a staff position.

Mailing lists – we are updating these and working out who is responsible for maintaining each list. These will be migrated to the UWA mailing list server.

Gordon Royle has asked what the Faculty policy on new computers is. At this stage the Faculty doesn't have a policy so it's still the School's responsibility. If staff have funds in their PG they can use this or ask the HOS.

CS marks – We had an issue about a month ago that CS marks was overriding marks when they were being entered. This issue has been resolved.

Les asked what will happen when staff retire – do they come off the central email server. Con responded that they do but he will look into whether they have the option of putting a forwarding address on.

HOS Report: I away last Thursday and Friday at a two-day Faculty retreat where we were working on a vision plan for the Faculty. A vision plan was written by Greg Ivey and Nick Spadaccini in 2009 setting out guidelines for the Faculty. This document is being rewritten. I'll keep you up-to-date.

Also discussed at the retreat was the implementation of research themes. Greg Ivey will be sending an email out regarding this. There will be 6 themes including Complex Systems. Staff will be asked to express an interest in joining a theme. I would encourage you very strongly to put your name down for a theme. I do this because money will be related to the research themes. Each year the Faculty will have about \$1.8m to support research. About 2/3 of that is going to be used for individual grants. Our section grants will disappear and will not be topped up. Every individual staff member will have their own account. This account may need to cover more than travel, it may need to cover computers as well. Con has been advised that the School's computer budget has gone. The amount of money in individual grants will be determined by a formula which the research team in the Faculty will develop but will involve number of research papers, research students and grants money. I am hoping individual grants for most of us will represent a win situation. An individual average grants will be approximately \$10,000-\$12,000.

The other 1/3 of the research money will be distributed through the themes. The Faculty policy will be to support staff working in research themes. I am pushing for all staff to get a guaranteed minimum a year of about \$1,000 to cover items such as computers and I'm also pushing for a cap on the top amount an individual can receive. The minimum would be enough for a staff member to change their computer every three years and attend one conference within the Country.

A question was asked why computers are coming out of research money when it is essential for every staff member. It is possible there will be an alternative model where an amount of money is set aside for computers each year and the balance is then distributed for individual and theme grants.

Our section grants at the moment are as follows:

Applied	\$4,500
Pure	-\$3,600
Statistics	-\$120

As we don't have any spare money I am proposing that no more travel approvals will be granted unless staff have their own funds. Any travel already approved will be honoured. This will be in place until funds come through from the Faculty.

In the School Discretionary account we have \$2,500 however in the HOS Discretionary account we have approximately \$60,000. Given our recent staff losses the Dean has been rather generous with funds for casual teaching so within reason we can use casual staff.

The Heads of School have been discussing how we appoint new staff. This will be determined at a Faculty level. Compared to other G08 Universities are staff to student ratio is quite low so we when requesting new staff we will need a better argument than we have too many students for our current staff.

Our rooms will be audited by the Faculty soon. Robin asked if there were any plans to improve our Common Room situation. Andrew advised that we will need to take suggestions for a new common room to the Faculty and the School will be expected to put some money into it also.

3. Committee Reports

a) Outreach Committee

Michael Giudici reported. The Committee is going well. As part of the Year of Maths we have convinced the Faculty to bring kids from different schools to the University for a day. We will be having talks and activities. If anyone has any ideas please let us know. We will also be approaching various people for assistance. Everything else is going smoothly.

b) TLC

Des Hill reported. The Faculty and Business Faculty both have a peer-tutoring system where older students tutor first year students. We have asked if we could implement this as well. I will be attending a meeting on Monday where I will get further information but all details will be handled by the Faculty team that looks after this system. We will have three main groups – one for bridging maths, one for top level maths and one for business stats. The business stats group will use peers from the Business School. This should relieve us from a lot of the tutoring we are doing at the moment. I will update staff after the meeting on Monday. We hope to have this program in place for Semester 2, 2011.

We need a volunteer to be Honours Coordinator in 2012 for three years as Nazim will be on study leave in 2012. This is one of the more interesting administration jobs and not too stressful.

Kevin Judd will be overseeing New Courses 2012. The minimum level of mathematics education required by students to complete a science degree is being decided by the Board of Coursework Studies. The Board of Coursework Studies will be meeting on 19 May 2011. We have recommended that the current level be maintained – MATH1050 + STAT1400 or MATH1050 + MATH1045 or the high- school equivalent.

Electrical Engineering are looking at having maths in the plus two units and having us help with the teaching. Some of the other engineering schools aren't looking at having

much maths at all but at the Masters Working Party meeting will consider having us teach into their units.

I will be emailing staff on Monday to ask for preferences with exam marking so you will know by the end of next week what you will be marking.

The computers for honours and masters students are appalling. The TLC would like to ask the School to appeal to Faculty IT management for new machines. Some of these students are overseas students who are paying large amounts of money to study here. They shouldn't have to work on slow computers. We would need 10-15 computers. Andrew will look into this.

4. Any Other Business

None.

Meeting closed 4.00pm.