

## Minutes

### School Meeting

12.00noon, Friday, 26 February 2016, MLR1

**Present:** John Bamberg, Tania Blackwell, Ed Cripps, Joanna Fawcett, Nev Fowkes, Michael Giudici, Stephen Glasby, Des Hill, Nazim Khan, Alex Khor, John Lau, Melissa Lee, Cai Heng Li, Miccal Matthews, Luke Morgan, Kevin Murray, Gopal Nair, Lyle Noakes, Kyle Rosa, Gordon Royle, Irene Pivotto, Tomasz Popiel, Cheryl Praeger, Thomas Stemler, Lucho Stoyanov, Berwin Turlach, Gabriel Verret

1. Apologies

Chrianna Bharat, Charley Budgeon, Jack Moore, Tony Pakes, Phil Schultz, Michael Small, Michelle Trevenen, Matt Tuson

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2015 were confirmed with the following corrections:

- Under those present it should read Melissa Lee
- John Bamberg was also a lecturer for the enrichment classes.

3. HOS Report (Lyle Noakes)

Staffing

- In the Applied section we have interviews coming up for the Level C (1 March) and Level E (1 April) positions. There will also be a Level B/C position associated with the Level E so Applied is doing quite well at the moment.
- Towards the end of last year Berwin and Kevin made a submission to the Faculty for funding to develop professional development courses. The idea is that these would be short courses aimed at Executives and would bring in a revenue stream to the Faculty. This is a positive opportunity for the Statistics section.
- Ed Cripps received a grant for teaching relief which runs for 5 years. As a result of that we have been able to take on a casual part-time position in Statistics.
- Another opportunity for the Statistics section is the Masters of Data Science. This has mainly been developed by CSSE but Maths & Stats has been asked to play a part and the main contribution will be from statistics. When this commences staff will need to teach into this Masters which may create the opportunity for more statisticians.
- The staffing situation in Analysis is quite critical with only 2 staff members working in that area and the prospects looking forward are extremely poor.
- Algebra is strong but there are questions about what happens in this area when Cheryl retires at the end of the year.

- To appoint new staff a business case must be put forward to the Faculty. There are currently two ways approval can be obtained. The first is to identify a revenue stream and the second is to identify an extremely distinguished, highly-cited researcher who would be willing to take a Chair here. The appointment of a distinguished researcher offers advertising benefits to the University and the Faculty.

#### Academic Performance

Central to the PDA process is the ability to measure academic performance. A meeting recently took place between Lyle, Farid Broussaid (EECE) and Mark Reynolds (CSSE) to prepare a working document for these Schools. This was submitted to FLT however the Dean had prepared a document for the engineers which appeared to be fair and he is now preparing a document for Mathematics.

#### Ezone

Irene Pivotto is the School's representative on the Ezone Reference Group. Any questions about the Ezone should go through the School representatives or alternatively there will also be a FAQ page set up and an area for submitting questions

#### Mentor Scheme

The Faculty has launched an Academic mentoring program. Full details were provided in the emails circulated by the Faculty. Under this program all Teaching & Research staff will be expected to mentor up to 4 students. Students will be assigned to mentors by the ECM Student Affairs office.

#### Enrichment classes

Enrichment classes for MATH1001 and MATH1002 students will be running this semester.

#### Complex Data Modelling Group

There has been very positive feedback from the Faculty office about the Complex Data Modelling Group. This group is being seen as a model for how these groups should be run.

#### Broadening unit

For some time we have been asking for mathematics to be considered as a broadening unit available for students within Science. This would enable engineers to take more mathematics. We have received support from a lot of people and it is now looking likely that this will be approved.

#### Renewal Project

At this stage there is very little information about the renewal project. Any decisions regarding redundancies will be devolved to a Faculty level. There won't be limits imposed but the decisions will be made via a methodology that is yet to be developed. There is also no further information about the time frame.

It is possible that this School will be affected more by having Teaching and Research staff who mainly teach being reclassified as teaching intensive and also by having research

intensive staff reclassified as professional staff if their publication rates aren't sufficient or their contracts won't be renewed. Whichever methodology the Faculty develops there may be some discretion in there for HOS. In this case Lyle stated he will be supporting those staff members who are good citizens and contribute to School activities.

It is also not clear which College the School would sit in, whether it would remain in Engineering or move to Science. Physics and Computer Science have both indicated that they would like to be in the same college as Mathematics & Statistics. Lyle would not support a move to Science, and argued strongly to remain with Engineering, because of the support and co-operation experienced for Mathematics & Statistics in ECM (especially, but not only the Dean).

#### 4. Undergraduate matters (Des Hill)

Enrolment numbers are good – STAT1520 is very good, 2<sup>nd</sup> year is good and numbers in third year are very high with nearly 100 students in one unit. Honours numbers are excellent with 18 students this year.

Des's role now is Program Chair rather than Director of Undergraduate Studies. Program Chairs look after the curriculum so Des is the School representative on the Faculty Education Committee. Maths & Stats is now set up like the Engineering schools with the administrative staff liaising with academic staff on tasks such as unit budgets, casual teaching etc.

Exam marking – Unit Co-ordinators are required to mark the first 100 scripts, then markers can be employed to mark the balance.

Enrichment classes for MATH1001 and MATH1002 students are running this semester from weeks 3 to 9. Thank you to the staff members who have volunteered to give these classes. Des is currently preparing the information for the website. This will be advertised to students and we will be giving certificates to students who complete the classes.

FECM have requested that the engineering major have an additional 2 units included and it looks like this may be approved. This could be positive for Maths as the students could choose more mathematics units. Des will be meeting with Adam Wittek from Mechanical Engineering to discuss how MM3 could be modified to suit Mechanical Engineering students.

Michael Giudici queried whether UC's of large units could receive a similar level of support to that provided for the Engineering Foundation Units by the Unit Support Team. Tania responded that now that the office has an additional staff member that there is capacity to provide additional support.

Casual tutors are now being organised by each Unit Co-ordinator rather than centrally by Des. UC's have the option of advertising for tutors or hiring staff that they already know. UC's agreed that they will liaise with each other regarding the allocation of tutors to ensure an even spread across units.

Miccal Matthews is managing the tutor lists in CS marks for Maths & Stats units. To have your tutors added to CS marks please refer to the email from Miccal.

5. Postgraduate matters (Thomas Stemler)

The School did well in the last round of APA scholarships with 8-9 successful candidates.

This year we have had quite a few honours students continue on to Masters with us.

Applications for the IPRS close at the start of April. Please let Thomas know if you have candidates in this round.

6. Outreach Committee report (Joanna Fawcett)

In January we participated in the Science Experience which Nazim Khan co-ordinated. A lot of students participated.

There will also be a school visiting us in March.

7. Any Other Business

Nazim mentioned that a unit is available called 'Transforming Teaching for Learning' by the Centre for Education Futures. This unit is free of charge at the moment but it is expected that in the future there will be a fee associated with this so Nazim encouraged staff to attend now.

Meeting closed 12.50pm.