

Minutes

School Meeting

1.00pm, 28 September 2012, MLR3

Present: Andrew Bassom (Chair), Tania Blackwell (Minutes), John Bamberg, Ed Cripps, Alice Devillers, Robin Milne, Kevin Murray, Gopal Nair, Alice Niemeyer, Cheryl Praeger, Gordon Royle, Michael Small, James Springham, Lucho Stoyanov, Berwin Turlach, Song Wang

1. Apologies

Wally Andrioni, Kathleen Chindarsi, Laura Firth, Neville Fowkes, Michael Giudici, Des Hill, Nazim Khan, John Lau, Cai Heng Li, Julie Marsh, Phill Schultz, Thomas Stemler

2. HOS Report

Teaching

Mathematical Methods 2 is going very well this semester. Thank you to everyone who is involved with this unit.

Staff will have received an email from Cara MacNish regarding their SURF scores. Data is being collected for all units across the Faculty so please respond to Cara's email.

At the last meeting of the FECM Steering Committee the latest version of the Masters of Mathematics and Statistics was put forward for consideration and we received approval to submit a formal phase 1 submission to the University. In this proposal our Masters program shares a couple of units with Physics, there is a project in Semesters 2 and 3 and there will be 6 units, from each section, of which a student will do 4.

Exam papers are due today so please get them in.

Research

ERA scores are due shortly.

The School had a meeting recently to discuss the definition the Faculty is considering for a research active academic. The feedback received so far has been that the School is generally happy with the definition but please let Andrew know if you have any further feedback.

The Faculty is still planning to adopt a one research theme. Two themes are under consideration one in remote sensing and the other ocean resources. A working party has provided a report on one of these areas but the Faculty is still waiting on a report from the other working party. This means that all staff will be encouraged to research in this area. However if you are research active in your own or your groups' area you will receive support. No support will be provided if you are research inactive.

Management

Andrew attended the last 2 days of Leading Transitions Program 4 last week. This program consisted of the Dean, Deputy Deans and 4-5 HOS together with the equivalent from the Science Faculty.

PDRs – only a couple of staff from the School haven't completed PDRs.

Workload Model

Two rough models were previously presented to the School with the second model being favoured. This feedback has been provided to the Dean. Some of the other Schools are not happy with this model as they feel not enough credit is given for project work so this is still ongoing.

ARWU Rankings

The ARWU rankings have recently been released and the Dean has been advised that the University isn't happy with the ranking for Engineering. Curtin University ranked within 150-200 in the world whereas UWA ranked over 200 so the Faculty will be focusing on improving this. Pure and Applied Mathematics both ranked very well.

Small Grants Scheme

Cheryl and John have put together a paper on the new Small Grants Scheme for early career researchers. Andrew is happy with the paper but will take it to the MPC for approval before bringing it to the School

HOS Funds

Andrew reported that despite a number of visitors over the last couple of months there is still approximately \$50,000 in the Head of School project grant. Andrew is unable to make a general distribution of these funds to staff as in the past but offered to provide grants of \$1,000-\$2,000 for special projects. If you are interested please put your request in letter form (not email) to Andrew.

PDR/Headship

Andrew had his PDR with John Dell last Tuesday. One of the items discussed was Andrew's Headship, which finishes at the end of 2013, and whether Andrew would be willing to extend this. Andrew would prefer not to however if a suitable candidate can't be found he would be willing to discuss a small extension. This was discussed further with Robyn Owens. Robyn felt quite strongly that Andrew shouldn't have to do a second term as Head and that it is up to the Dean and the School to find a replacement. There are three options for a new HOS:

- Appointing a Head from outside the University, however this would put pressure on the budget and we would then be in a position where we couldn't afford to make other appointments.
- A senior member of staff to offer to step-up into the position.
- The University could appoint someone from outside the School but still within the University to the position.

Andrew asked Song to organise a meeting of senior staff within the School to discuss these options and report back to him with a preferred option within a month.

Christmas Party

We have been approached by EECE to put on a joint Christmas BBQ again. There were no strong objections so we will go ahead with this.

3. Any Other Business

Hyam Rubinstein will be giving a Public Lecture on 15 October through the Institute of Advanced Studies and a Masterclass on Optimisation on 16 October. Please announce these lectures to your classes.

The deadline for AMSI Summer Research Scholarships is next Tuesday. If you have any suitable third year students please let them know.

Meeting closed 1.45pm.