MSc Mathematics Student-Staff Exchange Meeting  
27th April 2016

Sarah Hart, Maura Paterson, Ben Fairbairn, Andrew Bowler  
Apologies: Brad Baxter, Amarpreet Rattan  
Year 1 rep: Sorna Zand  
Year 2 rep: Marcel Lee  
Phil Emmott  
Sarah Hart (minutes)  

SH: Raymond has left; he will co-supervise dissertations that he has already agreed to supervise, and will mark the pricing exam. Pricing will run next year as normal with a different lecturer.  
We are not aware of any issues around exams. After the exams we will have an options evening to talk about options for next year.  

Marcel: Pricing can be slightly problematic with 2 different lecturer’s, there is less clarity about exact syllabus etc. It would be useful to get more communication and a clearer syllabus.  
Phil: Students are keen to get marked work back before the exam.  
BF and MP explained they would do this but have to wait 2 weeks before returning assignments. Ben said he may not be able to mark work submitted late in time, but other work should be OK.  

It would also be useful (this usually does happen anyway) to get the marks for each assignment back before the next one is due.  
SH: This ought to happen as a matter of course, so let me know if there is a long delay.  

There was a general discussion on electronic submission pros and cons. For mathematics this is problematic because not all students necessarily are adept at \LaTeX\ and it is hard to type maths up without making errors. So we will probably stick with handwritten submission for the moment. Exams are handwritten after all so it’s good to get the practice.  

Phil praised Ben’s helpful descriptions not only of recommended texts but their contents, which parts of them are useful for what, and reference to them through the course, not just as a list of “Useful books” never mentioned again.  

We discussed getting rooms for student group work. Phil asked if Room 745 could have a keypad for code entry rather than a key? That way student’s would be able to use it at weekends or evenings if it is free, just as the computer room is used. Sarah said she would investigate.  

Marcel suggested that Pricing might be better taken the year after Mathematical Methods, for many students. But that this shouldn’t be a cast iron law.