

School of Mathematical Sciences PhD Forum

Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 23.03.2023

Present:

Staff: Alex Fink Chair, Ian Morris, Matt Kimberly, Jo Young

Reps: Tim Davis, Maria Pintado Serrano, Ivelina Mladenova, George Scriven,

Students: Danilo Riccio, Sam Brevitt, James Kiln, Liam Fahey, Alexandra Valavanis, Jordon Marajh, James Kiln. Anastasis Kafetzopoulos

Secretary: Katie Hale

Apologies: Zain Kapadia, Adam Onus

Item Raised	Actions and Reports	Who	Progress
Facilities	Several facilities issues raised:		
	Photocopy paper. If no paper available at copier, collect from MB-1.02		
	Air pressure affecting door to PhD office Raise with estates.	Jo	Completed
	Seminar room issues: temperature is very high especially towards end of the day. Raise with estates	Jo	Completed
	Cutlery going missing. Suggestion that PhD students organise a cutlery amnesty with posters in kitchens.	PhD students	
	Whiteboards & blackboards: can cleaners clean these. Enquire with facilities	KH	In progress
	A5 notebooks – need restocking in common room	KH	In progress
Laptops	We were asked if there was an option to buy laptops from QM after PhD completed. Jo explained that new guidance from IT has now removed this option.		
Opening Hours	Faculty are about to launch extended opening hours in SMS. Email announcing launch will be shared when ready.		
Taught module tutorials low attendance	PhDs raised issue of low numbers of students attending tutorials especially in the early sessions. Query if tutorials could be set as drop-in sessions. PhDs asked to raise this with Director of Education.	PhDs	
Stipends for International students	Concerns raised over funding level of some studentships for some international PhD students. Some discussions going on at faculty and college level.		

	PhDs encouraged to speak to student union and consider cross school/faculty organisation	PhDs	
TA / demonstrator rep	Idea of having a TA/demonstrator rep discussed. PhDs wondered if they could network with other PhD reps in other schools. PhDs encouraged to explore this and to work with QM student union on this.	PhDs	
TA/demonstrator allocation	PhDs wondered if there was a way to allocate slots that did not require the education services manager having to work through individual email replies. Various options discussed. Alex to raise with Education Services Manager	AF	Completed
Date of next meeting	TBC – around October / November 2023		