

School of Mathematical Sciences
PhD Forum
Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 26.03.20

Present: Alex Fink (AF) Chair, Steve Lester (SL), Maldon Goodridge (MG), Jasna Urbancic, Tim Davis, Katerina Zahradova,

Secretary: Katie Hale (KH)

This meeting was a scaled back online meeting as the reps were not sure a large open meeting would work well. PhD students were asked to forward concerns to reps and they raised these at the meeting. An online follow-up with reps is scheduled in two weeks to review any issues that have arisen due to Covid-19 and the need to work remotely.

Item Raised	Actions and Reports	Who	Progress
1. TA / Demonstrating work	Reps reported that since all teaching moved online, some PhDs had lost their TA/demonstrating work. Concerns about finances of students that depend on this. Reps requested that TA / Demonstrating work go to those that depend on this (those that do not get full stipend/funding) Action 1: Raise this with module leaders, Director of Education, School Manager and Teaching and Student Support Manager	AF	Completed
2. Progressions and extension	Reps wanted to know if any extensions would be offered to PhDs due to Covid-19. KH explained that the RDO and DC had put together FAQs that would be added to and developed as policy is developed during this period. Extensions / interruptions can be requested if access to systems impacts research. Action 2: KH to email PGR students with details on progressions, submission, vivas and interruptions along with FAQs that have been circulated	KH	Completed
3. Travel funds	Reps wondered if travel funding would roll over to next year. AF & SL explained that this would be looked into at university or School level Action 3: KH to raise with School Manager	KH	Completed
4. Laptops	Reps wanted to know if there were any plans for 2 nd year laptop rollout. KH explained that this is currently delayed, timing of this depends on when university reopens. Action 4: KH to raise with School Manager	KH	Completed
5. Linux	Concerns that Linux VDI provision was still not satisfactory. Action 5: KH to raise with School Manager	KH	Completed

6. Quips	<p>Reps raised issue of not all students giving talks. Wondered if it could be made mandatory. AF/SL discussed ways to encourage those reluctant to participate, but did not want to make it mandatory.</p> <p>Action: AF to email PhDs at start of year to strongly encourage all to participate.</p>	AF	
7. PGR Day	KH reported that this is postponed indefinitely. We hope to run it this year if possible.		
Date of next meeting	8 th April 2020 3pm. Online through TEAMS		