

## School of Mathematical Sciences School Meeting

### Notes and Actions from Meeting held on 22 September 2022

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Present: David Arrowsmith (DA), Oscar Bandtlow (OB), Adrian Baule (AB), Christian Beck (CB), Shabnam Beheshti (SB), Martin Benning (MB), Ginestra Bianconi (GB), Natasha Blitvic (NB), Omer Bobrowski (OB), Alex Clark - Chair (AC), Katy Clough (KC), Sarah Condron (SC), Salvatore Danilo Riccio (SDR), Sebastian Del Bano Rollin (SDBR), Lei Fang (LF), Michael Farber (MF), Matt Fayers (MF1), Tara Fife (TF), Alex Fink (AF), Felix Fischer (FF), Claudia Garetto (CG), Alexander Gnedin (AG), Ilya Goldsheid (IG), Louise Goddard (LG), Jamie Griffin (JG), Arthur Guillaumin (AG), Katie Hale (KH), Hankun He (HH), Kieran Hayde (KH1), Matteo Iacopini (MI), Subhajit Jana (SJ), Mark Jerrum (MJ), Robert Johnson (RJ), Wolfram Just (WJ), Zain Ahmed Kapadia (ZAK), Boris Khoruzhenko (BK), Rainer Klages (RK), Anna Klockner (AK), Vito Latora (VL), Silvia Liverani (SL), Megan Liddle (ML), Anna Maltsev (AM), Argyro Mainou (AM1), Shahn Majid (SM), Charalampos Markakis (CM), Hugo Maruri-Aguilar (HMA), John Moriarty (JM1), Ian Morris (IM), Melania Nica (MN), Vincenzo Nicosia (VN), Behrang Noohi (BH), Fatemah Parsa (FP), Viresh Patel (VP), Nicola Perra (NP), Michael Phillips (MP1), Thomas Prellberg (TP), Felipe Rincon (FR), Abhishek Saha (AS), Lubna Shaheen (LS), Mira Shamis (MS), Arick Shao (AS1), Primoz Skraba (PS), Dudley Stark (DS), Chris Sutton (CS), Huy The Nguyen (HTN), Peter Thorpe (PT), Ivan Tomasic (IT), Pedro Vergel (PV), Juan Valiente Kroon (JVK), Mark Walters (MW), Shengwen Wang (SW), Justin Ward (JW), Linus Wunderlich (LW), Andrea Young (AY)

**Apologies:** Prajmitra Bhuyan (PB), Steve Coad (SC) Rosemary Harris (RH), Weini Huang (WH), Kostas Papafitsoros (KP), Alex Shestopaloff (AS),

**Secretary:** Sarah Condron (SC)

Minute	Summary of Agreed Actions	Who	When	Progress
13.06.22 – 3.1	Volunteers to share academic officers to contact JY/AC	All	ASAP	Complete
13.06.22 – 3.2	Academic staff to register attendance at 26 July graduation ceremony subject to availability	All	By 29 June	Complete
20.09.21 – 6.1	SC to liaise with JM for next meeting agenda	SC	Next meeting	Complete
10.01.22 – 4.1	JY to provide an update on Telephony Consultation in April 2022	JY	Next meeting	Complete

Agenda Item	Reports and Actions	Who	When
<p><b>1. Apologies &amp; Minutes from previous meeting</b></p>	<p><b><u>Apologies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prajmitra Bhuyan</li> <li>• Steve Coad</li> <li>• Rosemary Harris</li> <li>• Weini Huang</li> <li>• Kostas Papafitsoros</li> <li>• Alex Shestopaloff</li> </ul> <p>Noted from the previous meeting were reviewed and progressed as follows:</p> <p><b>13.06.22 – 3.1:</b> Those who volunteered to share offices have now relocated.</p> <p><b>13.06.22 – 3.2:</b> 26 July 2022 graduation ceremony took place with a good representation from Maths.</p> <p><b>20.09.21 – 6.1:</b> Impact has now been covered at the School Meeting.</p> <p><b>10.01.22 – 4.1:</b> This item is ongoing throughout the University and Jo Young will update staff as and when.</p>		
<p><b>2. New Starters and Leavers</b></p>	<p>AC welcomed the following new starters who were asked to introduce themselves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Melania Nica – Senior Lecturer in Actuarial Science - 01.08.22</li> <li>- Shengwen Wang – Lecturer in Geometric Analysis - 15.08.22</li> <li>- Argyro Mainou – Teaching Fellow - 01.09.22</li> <li>- Subhajit Jana – Lecturer in Number Theory - 01.09.22</li> <li>- Natasha Blitvic – Reader in Mathematical Sciences – 01.09.22</li> <li>- Kostas Papafitsoros – Lecturer in Mathematical Sciences – 14.09.22</li> <li>- Matteo Iacopini – Lecturer in Statistics – 16.09.22</li> <li>- Vitaly Fain – Teaching Fellow – 26.09.22</li> <li>- Dimitris Kalogiros – Teaching Fellow – 03.10.22</li> <li>- Eleni Katirtzoglou – Teaching Fellow – 03.10.22</li> </ul> <p>AC confirmed the following staff would be leaving in October and thanked them for their hard work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prajmitra Bhuyan – Lecturer in Statistics – 10.10.22</li> <li>- Rosemary Harris – Reader in Applied Mathematics – 31.10.22</li> <li>- Wolfram Just – Reader in Applied Mathematics – 31.10.22</li> </ul>		

<p><b>3. Head of School Update</b></p>	<p><u>Office Sharing</u>  AC thanked to those who volunteered to share offices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hugo Maruri-Aguilar &amp; Alex Shestopaloff – MB-113</li> <li>- Claudia Garetto &amp; Michael Ruzhansky – MB-325</li> <li>- Martin Benning &amp; Matt Fayers – MB-512</li> <li>- Shabnam Beheshti &amp; David Arrowsmith – MB-127</li> <li>- Dudley Stark &amp; Lubna Shaheen – MB-315</li> <li>- Mark Walters &amp; Michael Phillips – MB-427</li> </ul> <p>Going forward, the School will not be asking for volunteers to share offices. The School will instead consider future sharing requirements in a more strategic manner, focusing on individual usage of offices by academic staff.</p> <p><u>Recruitment</u>  Recruitment for the vacancies that are arising as result of the staff leaving in the October are progressing as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lecturer in Statistics – this post will be going to advert imminently.</li> <li>- Reader in Applied Mathematics – approval has been given to recruit to this post. The advert is likely to go live within the next couple of months.</li> <li>- Reader in Applied Mathematics – this post has already been recruited to.</li> </ul> <p>There will be a further strategic hiring round taking place throughout the Faculty, as per the previous round last academic year. Maths did not recruit additional staff thorough the previous recruitment round but it is hoped that the posts this time will be closer aligned to maths research themes.</p> <p><u>Graduation Ceremonies</u>  Maths was well represented in the recent graduation ceremonies. AC thanked those who volunteered and participated. Going forward, to ensure smoother running and fairness, the school will create a rota system whereby different staff will be allocated to attend either the winter or summer ceremony. It will be the individual staff member’s responsibility to ensure the ceremony allocated to them is attended (swapping or replacing will be permitted).</p> <p>Winter graduation will be held Saturday 07 January 2023, 10.30am.</p> <p>Academics are encouraged to attend those ceremonies at which their PhD students are graduating. The Faculty ensures they are aware of all graduating PhD students and do note whether the supervisors are in attendance.</p>		
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	<p><u>Research Group Restructure</u> As the School grows, the current Research Group structure requires review. The sizes of the groups vary too widely, some are too large while others too small. There are too many groups for good management resulting in too much variation in how the groups are run. A restructure into larger groups will allow staff to interact more naturally with those currently in other groups. Seminars can also be reconsidered and adjusted for the members of a particular group.</p> <p>It is expected the existing groups will be amalgamated and called Centres (this will be throughout the faculty).</p> <p><u>Town Hall Meeting</u> Town Hall meetings will be discontinued. As the School expands, the format has not worked as well as initially hoped. The Town Hall meetings will be replaced with smaller meetings between SMT &amp; individual research groups which will take place once per year. It is hoped this will increase communication/feedback between SMT and research groups.</p> <p><u>MSc Applied Data Analytics</u> The University is reconsidering its approach to online learning in particularly with OES (the firm contracted to assist in the construction of the online content). Until decisions have been taken, further development of the MSc Applied Data Analytics programme for Coursera is now on hold. Gideon Shimshon (GS) has been replaced by Stephanie Marshall (SM). SM has assumed leadership of QM Online which holds bi-weekly board meetings.</p> <p><u>Athena Swan Bronze Awards Renewal</u> Thank you goes especially to CG for putting together the application. Feedback from Athena Swan and University has been positive and encouragement has been given to apply for Silver status in the future. Thanks also goes to SL, ML and VN also for working on the application.</p> <p><u>Staff Survey</u> The results of the recent staff survey are expected to be with AC imminently. A group will be formed to discuss the results of the survey in relation to the Athena Swan, EDI and working environment.</p>		
<p><b>4. Education Update &amp; Preparation for Semester 1</b></p>	<p>SB updated the School on Education and Preparation for semester 1. Her presentation detailed:</p> <p><u>Introduction</u> Director of Education – Shabnam Beheshti (MB-127) Deputy Director of Education – Sebastian del Bano Rollin (MB-313)</p>		

	<p><u>MSc Data Analytics</u>  Due to the MSc Data Analytics being on hold, there will be some staffing changes as workloads now need to be adjusted. Teaching Fellows will be starting over the next two weeks therefore for those in both semester B &amp; C (MSc dissertation). SB will be conducting conversations in relation to responsibilities.</p> <p><u>Allocation</u>  SB thanked first year lecturers for being flexible and understanding following clearing and the realisation student numbers were going to be much greater than initially thought.</p> <p>The newest version of the teaching allocation does yet not include Semester B/C adjustments.</p> <p>A communication will be sent shortly regarding advisee lists and details for advisor meetings in weeks 1/2 and 8/9 each semester.</p> <p><u>Year Tutors</u>  Director of Student Experience – Dr Weini Huang  Y0/Foundation Tutor – Prof Oliver Jenkinson  Y1 Tutor – Dr Shu Sasaki  Y2 Tutor – Dr Lei Fang  Y3/Finalists Tutor – Dr Hugo Maruri-Aguilar</p> <p><u>Operations</u>  Please see attached presentation slides for the operations breakdown.</p> <p><u>MME</u>  Following a period of online/MME learning during the pandemic, students are expected to attend all lectures/seminars on campus again, and it was reiterated Queen Mary is a campus based university. At the same time however, the University must also show inclusivity and recognise the benefit to students to be able to use the MME function.</p> <p>To enable inclusivity, SB indicated staff should provide a zoom link for lectures. Zoom is supported on each of the desktops in all classrooms with cameras integrated in the App. SB emphasised staff should not spend more than 5 minutes trying to get MME to work but focus attention on the students in the classroom as Q-Review will be</p>		
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	<p>enabled in any case which will run parallel. Students can view the recording at a later date if the Zoom function fails.</p> <p><u>Tutorials &amp; Seminars</u> Seminar hours are to be interactive. Teaching Fellows will now be able to assist in the larger seminars to help the interactivity. Staff should speak with SB to request additional help if required.</p> <p><u>QMPlus</u> A basic checklist was for QM Plus Page set up was provided. Staff can refer to the attached presentation slide from SB.</p> <p><u>Assessments</u> The breakdown of assessments are included on the presentation slide from SB.</p> <p>SB emphasised she is available to support staff and students, and encouraged staff to contact her in case of any issues or queries.</p>		
<p><b>5. Research Impact</b></p>	<p>Peter Thorpe (Deputy Dean for Impact/Senior Lecturer in Biochemistry) and Anna Klockner (Impact Engagement Officer for S&amp;E) attended for this item.</p> <p><u>What is Research Impact</u> Impact is defined as ‘an effect on, change or benefit to the economy, society, culture, public policy or services, health, the environment or quality of life, beyond academia’.</p> <p>Impact is important for the Research Excellence Framework (REF):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quality academic outputs</li> <li>- Institutional environment</li> <li>- Impact beyond academia</li> </ul> <p>Results from REF 2021 show the School of Mathematical Sciences demonstrate world leading and internationally excellent research. Now is a good time to start thinking about case studies for the next REF.</p> <p>For a more detailed description and visual aids, please see attached presentation slides ‘Research Impact AK’.</p> <p>The Impact Team at Queen Mary consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hannah Bentley – Executive Officer to the Vice Principal for Research and Innovation</li> </ul>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varant Kurkjian – Impact Acceleration Accounts Officer</li> <li>• Luke Cridland – Impact Engagement Manager (acting) &amp; Impact Engagement Officer (SMD)</li> <li>• Justine Kenyon – Impact Engagement Officer (HSS)</li> <li>• Anna Klockner – Impact Engagement Officer (S&amp;E)</li> <li>• Prof John Moriarty – Academic Impact Lead (SMS)/Professor of Mathematics</li> <li>• Prof Joshua Reiss – Entrepreneur in Residence/Professor of Audio Engineering</li> </ul> <p>The impact team are connected to professional teams in the University such as Queen Mary Innovation (QMI), Business Development (BD), Comms Team and The Centre for Public Engagement (CPE).</p> <p>The impact team are able to support staff by offering training sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction to Impact – 26.10.22</li> <li>- Research Impact for PhD students – 01.11.22</li> <li>- Impact planning and writing for UKRI application – 02.11.22</li> <li>- Evaluating and evidencing impact – 23.11.22</li> <li>- Impact drop in – 16.11.22</li> </ul> <p>Impact Entrepreneurs Club:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr Karin Hing – 06.12.22</li> <li>- Ana Avaliani – 14.03.23</li> <li>- Dr Hamit Soyel – 20.06.23</li> </ul> <p>Additionally they run an advice clinic on a 1:1 basis session for which appointment must be booked.</p> <p>There is currently an open Impact Fund, closing 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022, with a small stream of £10,000 and a larger stream of £50,000. These funds can cover early-stage commercialisation, end user engagement, policy impact, secondments and salary. For further information please follow link:  <a href="https://forms.office.com/r/6kZRztHdQ5">https://forms.office.com/r/6kZRztHdQ5</a> or email <a href="mailto:impact-acceleration@qmul.ac.uk">impact-acceleration@qmul.ac.uk</a></p> <p>For any questions/feedback please contact:  <a href="mailto:impact@qmul.ac.uk">impact@qmul.ac.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:p.thorpe@qmul.ac.uk">p.thorpe@qmul.ac.uk</a>  <a href="mailto:a.klockner@qmul.ac.uk">a.klockner@qmul.ac.uk</a></p> <p>JVK was subsequently invited to present his experience of developing and submitting a successful impact case to the REF on</p>		
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	<p>“Transformation optics – from cloaking to revolutionary satellite antennae”.</p> <p>Presentation slides with further details are attached.</p>		
<b>6. Any other business</b>	No other business was raised.		
<b>7. Date of next meeting</b>	The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 16 January 2023 from 13:00 – 14:30.		