

# Biannual meeting of the Directors of Studies in Mathematics

**Date and time:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 11am.

**Venue:** Latimer Room, Clare College.

1. **Apologies.** Matthias Dorrzapf (St Johns), Philip Dawid (Darwin), Julius Ross (Sidney).

2. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

3. **Matters arising from the minutes**

1. *Minute 8c. MIT exchange.*

At the last meeting, the Cambridge MIT exchange (CME) scheme coordinator for Mathematics (STCS) reported that it was likely that external funding would be provided to resurrect the CME which had been more or less dormant for several years. This report was not received with unalloyed enthusiasm by Directors of Studies. It has since transpired that the expected external funding has not materialised (at least, not for Mathematics). The Departments and the Faculty do not wish to make fund-raising for the CME a priority (especially in the light of the increased University fee), so it is unlikely that Cambridge students will visit MIT. However, it may still be that a few MIT students will visit Cambridge, but if so they will be very strictly vetted. This year, there is one, very well qualified, MIT student visiting Cambridge, taking Part II.

4. **Tripos matters: Parts IA, IB and II**

(a) *Examinations under Special Conditions.*

The student representative at the FB raised the issue of students taking examinations in College. She reported that she had received information suggesting that some of the arrangements may disadvantage candidates. The Faculty Board noted that the Faculty had a robust process in place to inform candidates in Colleges of any corrections to papers etc. The Board also noted that the conditions for candidates of examinations was under the authority of the Board of Examinations, not the Faculty. The Board asked the Convenor of the Directors of Studies to bring the matter to the attention of the Directors of Studies.

(b) *IA Supervision Norms* (IA supervision data and guidelines on pre-sessional courses enclosed.)

Faculty Board expressed concern that the information indicated that the level of supervision given to students was far from uniform across the colleges. The Board requested the Convenor of the Directors of Studies to ask the Directors of Studies to consider the data at their next meeting, and in particular why some Colleges feel it necessary to give additional Examples Classes.

The Board also asked that the Convenor of the Directors of Studies draw to the attention of the Directors of Studies the guidelines on pre-sessional courses from the Senior Tutors Committee.

## 5. Tripos matters: Part III

- (a) *Part III supervisions* (Dr Groisman to speak).

A number of claims for 2-1 and 1-1 supervisions have been made during this academic year. These mainly include claims for preparations to Part III presentations and for supervisions in certain Part III courses. Is it a well established practice across the colleges to approve such reports? What is the position of Directors of Studies on the matter?

## 6. Admissions

- (a) *Deselection.*

194 applicants out of a total of 1376 were deselected in the Christmas 2011 admissions round. These were placed in the standard admissions quintiles as follows: A 1, B 5, C 11, D 33, E 81, Z 63.

The accompanying spreadsheet shows the data for all deselected applicants, ordered first by UMS A-level maths scores and then by college.

- (b) STEP borderlines and number of offers.

## 7. STEP

- (a) *STEP data on overseas applicants.*

Cambridge Assessment (the body which administers STEP) has agreed to undertake an analysis of the data and report in time for the next meeting. They will investigate also the affect of gender and school type. Do directors of studies want anything else to be considered?

- (b) *Step Easter School.* (Prof Osborn to speak)

How useful is this School. Should it be expanded to allow all reasonable people the opportunity to go. Reasonable means people from state schools who are not high performing like Hills Rd and who say have not been doing BMO type competitions. At the moment it appears that a large number of nominated people are not being allowed to go.

## 8. Other matters

- (a) *Mathematical Contest in Modelling* (Dr Cowley to report)

<http://www.comap.com/undergraduate/contests/mcm/>

- (b) *The Emmy Noether Society* (women's maths society).

## 9. Any other business

10. **Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012, 11am, Corpus Christi.