

Faculty Meeting Minutes
(Non-executive session)
December 1, 2015

Present: Bernard Deconinck (chair), Doug Martin, KK Tung, Randy LeVeque, Eric Shea-Brown, Mark Kot, Matt Lorig, Hong Qian, Anne Greenbaum, Eli Shlizerman, Chris Bretherton, Sasha Aravkin, Ulrich Hetmaniuk, Nathan Kutz

Absent: Emo Todorov (sabbatical), Loyce Adams (on leave)

Others present: Felix Ye (student GSR), Lauren Lederer (staff representative)

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order by chair at 12:05pm
- Meeting minutes from November 3rd were unanimously approved
- Randy updated faculty on the results of the recent ACMS steering committee meeting regarding the data science option and its name.
 - Statistics strongly prefers the name include “statistics” because of the inclusion of stats courses and to distinguish this program from other data science programs across campus. Thus, after much discussion, the steering committee agreed to “Data Science & Statistics”.
 - Randy and Anne sought feedback on the courses listed for said option. Anne noted that ACMS wanted the pathway on the books but changes can be made later. Matt motioned to approve proposed courses; Hong seconded. All approved.
 - Randy noted that ACMS is also looking for their alumni to give talks. Should anyone have recommendations, please email Randy or Anne with information.
- Bernard updated faculty on the status of the department’s involvement in the Advanced Data Science PhD Option. Magda Balazinska received approval from the Computer Science and Statistics departments to include Amath. Paperwork is being submitted to the Graduate School to start this option Autumn 2016. The Advanced Data Science Option for the PhD program will have all requirements the regular track has, except that only two out of six courses from the 2nd year PhD courses will be required. In addition, students have to take three of the following four:
 - Data Management: CSE 544.
 - Machine Learning, CSE 546 or STAT 535.
 - Data Visualization: CSE 512.
 - Statistics: STAT 509 or STAT 512-513.
- Bernard reminded faculty that he forwarded an email from newly appointed Math faculty member, Jayadev Athreya, regarding starting an experimental math lab. (Athreya previously founded the Geometry Lab at the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign.) The lab would be a way to involve undergraduates in research projects. Grad students might act as mentors. The lab will be located in the basement of COM and will house interesting equipment, such as a 3D printer. If interested in becoming involved, attend the upcoming organizational meeting referenced in the email. Also, there is a meeting scheduled between UW SIAM president Jacob Price and Athreya, with the idea that there will be a presentation to SIAM members about getting involved in the lab.