

Faculty Meeting Minutes
(Non-executive session)
March 30, 2017

Present: Bernard Deconinck (chair), Hong Qian, Mark Kot, Randy LeVeque, Eric Shea-Brown, Ivana Bozic, Tim Leung, Matt Lorig, KK Tung, Anne Greenbaum, Ulrich Hetmaniuk

Absent: Emo Todorov, Nathan Kutz, Chris Bretherton (sabbatical), Eli Shlizerman (on-leave), Sasha Aravkin

Others present: Brian de Silva (student GSR), Lauren Lederer (staff representative)

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order by chair at 12:05pm.
- Ivana was welcomed as a new faculty member.
- Prior meeting minutes were approved.
- Bernard announced that Fred Wan donated another \$60k to student fellowships which was matched by the university, bringing the Olga Jung Wan fellowship to \$90k. The total value of departmental fellowships is over \$1.4M.
- Faculty were reminded to RSVP soon for the Amath Dinner coming up on May 5th at the UW Faculty Club.
- Reminders were given for prospective student events starting March 31st. A copy of student appointments has been placed in each faculty member's box. More faculty volunteers to hike on April 1st are encouraged.
- Bernard expressed concern that decisions made at the faculty retreat and subsequent faculty meeting to require three PhD course sequences might leave students without freedom to choose classes. (Said sequences include the current AMATH 584-5-6, 567-8-9, and newly proposed 561-2-3.) Additionally, requiring all three sequences might result in low enrollment numbers for advanced classes, meaning they could not run. New information was provided that student feedback indicates preference for class choice, as well as mixed feelings regarding requirement of additional sequence. Also, in looking at peer institutions, most offer course flexibility which attracts prospective students. However, there is no concern with prior decision about qualifying exams, which is that students will be tested over two of the three sequences.
 - Eric expressed concern that the various impacts were discussed extensively on two previous occasions, with faculty agreeing to require all three sequences. He noted apprehension about process of making decisions and reversing them, especially if not all faculty are present for the discussion. Further discussion ensued: KK pointed out no one holding onto decision and new student input is worthy of possibly rehashing issues; Randy felt it is worth trying to make requirements as right now as possible; Mark reiterated that most students take minimum amount of coursework as required and flexibility for coursework is desired.

- Hong brought up the pressing issue of prospective student weekend and what information to relay to those students. A proposal was made for a one year plan: teach all three sequences next year, with students choosing two of the three sequences. New qualifying exam procedure remains unchanged. These students will be grandfathered into the requirement for the remainder of their time here. Later, faculty will reexamine whether to require two of, or all three, of the sequences for future cohorts. Vote will be made electronically.
- Bernard announced that KK and Anne comprise the committee to recommend merit for faculty to the chair. Eric suggested spreading out the duties to include another member. Mark motioned to postpone the discussion to a later date. KK seconded; all approved.