

Faculty Meeting Minutes  
(Non-executive session)  
March 6, 2018

Present: Mark Kot, Anne Greenbaum, Ulrich Hetmaniuk, Randy LeVeque (acting chair), KK Tung, Sasha Aravkin, Ivana Bozic, Matt Lorig, Hong Qian, Tim Leung

Absent: Emo Todorov (on-leave), Eli Shlizerman (on-leave), Chris Bretherton, Bernard Deconinck (sabbatical), Eric Shea-Brown, Nathan Kutz

Others present: Jeremy Upsal (GSR), Lauren Lederer (staff representative)

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order by chair at 12:05pm.
- Minutes approved from January and February meetings.
- Faculty were reminded that Loyce emailed info about the admitted PhD students and included suggested faculty contacts. Please try to reach out to the prospective students. Also try to be available for the Prospective Student Weekend coming up on Friday, March 30th through Saturday, the 31<sup>st</sup>.
- The site visit, as part of the departmental review, will take place April 19-20<sup>th</sup>. Randy distributed a tentative agenda. The review committee will meet with faculty, staff, and students in groups. Jeremy will work on finding Amath students; Laurie will work on finding CFRM students. We will ask Sarah in Math/ACMS for help with finding undergrads for these meetings, but if any faculty are working with or know of any enthusiastic undergrads, it would be helpful to have their names.
- Lewis Hall is an unreinforced masonry (URM) building with no metal infrastructure to give additional stability. It is listed as one of more than a 1000 such buildings in Seattle, and about a dozen at UW. Although funds are not available for a full seismic retrofit, Lewis is scheduled to have some work done with 2017-19 biennium funds, including properly attaching floors to walls to improve its integrity in an earthquake. This will require temporary relocation of some or all residents for a few months. Ideally it would happen one summer. The university still has to solicit bids as well as test the building/brick to better assess its current state. More info should be available in April. Randy would like to hold an info session (probably in May) for building, to talk about the state of the building, work to be done and timetable, and also go over safety procedures such as Drop, Cover, and Hold. In the mean-time, there is a campus info session on March 15<sup>th</sup> through the UW Emergency Management Office, which Randy will announce soon. Also, Tony recently surveyed offices to list furniture not attached to walls as should be done in case of earthquake, and is working with the College to get this work done. Additionally, Randy has suggested Lewis Hall become a test site for an early warning system being developed by UW and USGS, called ShakeAlert, which is currently in beta test.
- Hong reminded faculty that they previously voted to change the qualifying exam from three to four days to test students over two out of three possible sequences: differential

equations, probability and stats, or numerical analysis. He pointed out this would require a lot of specialized committee work in writing the exams and would extend the testing period for students. Hong informed faculty of an executive committee suggestion to revise the exam so that it is more like the current format of three days, with each day progressively harder. If faculty approved and wanted to make the change this fall, we would need to get approval from current first-years to alter the exam procedure. Jeremy does not expect students would contest a shorter exam period. This may be discussed further at a future faculty meeting. Matt volunteered to write the exam questions for the probability and stats sequence. Ulrich asked whether past exam results show a correlation between class grades and failure. Nobody knew offhand, but this might be interesting to gather data on. Ulrich suggested, if such a correlation existed, to remove the qualifying exam altogether and a variety of opinions were expressed, pro and con. It was mentioned that the Math Department lets students out of one qualifying exam based on class grades, and several faculty mentioned that other universities are getting rid of their qualifying exams altogether. Randy suggested tabling the discussion for another day since this would require a longer conversation.

- Non-executive session ended at 12:45pm.