

Faculty Meeting Minutes
(Non-executive session)
May 1, 2018

Present: Mark Kot, Anne Greenbaum, Ulrich Hetmaniuk, Nathan Kutz, Randy LeVeque, KK Tung, Sasha Aravkin, Ivana Bozic, Matt Lorig, Hong Qian, Tim Leung, Chris Bretherton, Bernard Deconinck (Chair)

Absent: Emo Todorov (on-leave), Eli Shlizerman (on-leave), Eric Shea-Brown

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

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order by chair at 12:05pm.
- Bernard informed that per the latest information from the college, faculty merit raises are likely to be 2% maximum with no further increase possible this year. The department needs to follow the regular procedure for reviews. Bernard reminded faculty that annual reports are due today, May 1st. Eric and KK have agreed to serve as the merit review committee.
- Mark noted the potential for academic student employees (ASEs) to strike. Jeremy confirmed the current contract had expired at midnight on April 30th.
- Due to health reasons, Fred Wan will need to reschedule his visit which was originally timed to coincide with the May 3rd department social.
- 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: methods, probability and stats, or numerical analysis. This change was published on the department website and was the information provided to current first years and prospective students. Recently, 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. Hong met with first years to gauge interest in changing the exam, however, at least 5 current students did not want to change the format. Thus, the exam will proceed as planned. The exam committee will be comprised of faculty who taught the core classes and each faculty member will grade their own exam questions.
- Bernard mentioned that Loyce recently emailed a summary of admissions acceptances. Significantly, there were four ARCS acceptances. Typically, we may have one or two; this indicates successful recruitment of the top candidates. Depending on how others departments fared recruiting their ARCS fellows, the department may be responsible for providing the funds for two of these four ARCS awards.
- Bernard proposed that the procedure for collegiate teaching evaluations be modeled after other departments in which the chair assigns evaluators. This would place the responsibility on the person who needs to complete the evaluation, and would spread the work load evenly. The lecturer would still be able to determine scheduling. All agreed.

- For the 50 Year Amath Celebration, Bernard suggested, with support of the executive committee, the event combine a conference with the reunion. An NSF proposal could be submitted. An organizing committee would iron out many details, including number of days, speakers, alumni engagement, and the NSF proposal. The event would take place sometime in June 2019.
- Jeremy invited faculty to join the teaching journal club next Tuesday from 12-1pm in Lewis 208 for a discussion on the club's readings and findings regarding teaching practices.
- Non-executive session ended at 12:35pm.