Theoretical Physics Committee Meeting

Minutes of the TP Committee meeting held at 3.00pm on Wednesday 16th of October 2013 in the Faculty Conference Room.

Present: Dean – C. Williams, P. Eastham, P. Karageorgis, T. McLoughlin, J. Lunney, S. Ryan, C. Stephens,

Apologies: G. Harper

In Attendance: K O’Doherty

1. Minutes of meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the TP Committee held on Wednesday 13th February 2013 were approved subject to two minor changes

2. Matters arising

Regarding student tracking/transfers it was noted that the numbers in the last 2 years have gone down. T. McLoughlin did some research on this. The Dean mentioned that he did not understand S.Frolov’s graphs in a previous TP meeting. The Dean also told the committee of the need to address the new qualification procedure and report annually.

Non-EU Students: currently there are none in TP this year. There was a discussion on JS students from Tbilisi State University coming into TP. These students will come and complete the last two years of a TP degree. There was a query on whether there was any guarantee that they will pay full non-EU fees.

S. Ryan mentioned that Maths have been open to Brazil & India and that the School needs to have an active approach. She also stated that a Global Officer should be helping to recruit non-EU students. The School has had a meeting with the Global Relations Office to discuss a shared Global Officer for the School. The School of Physics mentioned that they were very active in the area but not specific to bringing in students.

The Dean reminded that committee that if we don’t get more students then schools will not be able to replace staff and there will not be any extra budget. KPI’s and contact hours are very important. He mentioned that there will be a review of TR071 and asked how we would teach more students by innovative methods?
3. **School of Mathematics Review**

Professor S, Ryan informed that committee that the School of Maths will undergo a School review in March 2014. TP staff will be invited to some of the meetings. The School are in the process of preparing material for this review.

4. **Staffing Update**

There is a new member of staff in the School of Maths. Professor Dmytro Volin joined the School in late September and his research is in String Theory and QFT. In the School of Physics a new member of staff David O’Reegan will start in January 2014.

5. **Projects**

In relation to student projects the Dean informed the committee that the Provost is very keen for TP students to take a project. There was a concern about resources in TP and how this would be handled as students try to select their own supervisor. It was suggested in the future that both Schools should try and approach a joint project. There was a lot of agreement between Maths & Physics to do this and it was also suggested that this should be discussed with TP staff in the School of Maths and then meet with staff in the School of Physics.

6. **Erasmus**

There is a perception among TP students cannot do Erasmus. But it seems they can. It was noted that when TP students do Erasmus they can encounter difficulties. It is important that these students meet all the correct requirements. Physics will investigate if they have a policy on this.

7. **Student Transfers**

Covered under matters arising.

8. **Schedule of Meetings**

There was a suggestion of two meetings per semester

9. **A.O.B.**

It was mentioned that it would be a good idea if there were exit interviews out of TP

J. Lunney also wanted to mention the good relations between Maths & Physics. Both Schools have been working well together

JS & SS TP receptions to be organised.

**Next Meeting 12th February 2014 in the School of Maths Meeting Room**