Theoretical Physics Committee Meeting

Minutes of the TP Committee meeting help at 2.00pm on Friday 21st of September 2012 in the Faculty Conference Room.


In Attendance: K O’Doherty

The Dean opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the new committee.

1. Committee Membership

The Dean informed committee members that the purpose of the meeting was to get people working together. J. Lunney said that he was happy with the members of the committee and that he wishes to nominate P. Eastham to replace him once the committee is fully operational.

It was noted that there should be student representatives on the committee. Suggestions were made for one Freshman and one Sophister student to be involved.

S. Ryan informed the committee that she would most likely be the next Head of School in Maths and that she would need to step down as Director of TP. J. Lunney felt that no-one in the School of Physics was quite ready for the role at the moment. S. Ryan suggested that S. Frolov from Maths be invited to attend the next meeting with the expectation that he would be the next Director of TP. This was agreed by all members.

2. Information on JF TP 2012

Updating the committee, S. Ryan informed everyone that currently there are 41 new TP students. The CAO point requirement was 565 this year and we took extra students at 550 in the second round. We had an increased quota.

3. Prizes

It was agreed that the Minchin prize would be decided by the two Heads of School.
4. **Review of rules and weightings**

A discussion took place regarding the new weightings. This has previously been communicated to the Director of Teaching & Learning (UG) committee. It was agreed that the two Schools would inform colleagues. Students also need to be informed of these changes as well as pass rules.

Global Relations - A discussion took place regarding non-EU students and whether staff in both Schools would be willing to accept these students on top of filling the TP quota. There were concerns that we may turn away some of our own excellent students and also on resources and quality of teaching.

Projects - There was a suggestion that maybe Projects could be compulsory in final year. If this is agreed then credits would have to be decided. Working Group to explore

5. **Suggestions for future meetings**

It was mentioned that in the past there has been some duplication of work and effort between the two schools and that this needs to be reviewed.

The Dean recommended that there should be frequent meetings and the lines of communication must be kept open. It was also suggested that there should be two meetings per term with one after the annual examination period.

S. Ryan mentioned that the number of rising JS students is low and we need to report back as to where these students transfer to.

**A.O.B.**

J. Lunney expressed optimism on the Maths/Physics relations and hoped that in the future both Schools could work together. He said that he hoped that maybe a joint seminar with new director S. Frolov was an idea.

The Dean suggested that there should be a review of maths in TR071.

**Next Meeting 14th November 2012 at 2pm in the FEMS Conference Room**