

**Meeting of the Student Staff Liaison
Committee on 31st January 2023**

General matters

- Physics students gave their opinion on the University's proposal to ban over-cating in an online poll. In the short time before the SSLC meeting, 130 students had indicated their opposition to the ban, and 2 were in favour. Similar results were reported from other departments in the Science Faculty.

First year matters

- The timing of the PX160 worksheet on line integrals is not aligned with the E&M lectures which make use of this mathematics.
These worksheets are designed so that students learn new material by themselves. With the predominance of lectures and scripted laboratory experiments in the courses, it is important to encourage students to develop self-study skills. The worksheets also provide structure to the tutorials and help provide comparability of the tutorial support offered by different tutors.
- The accessibility of the PX161 worksheet material varies.
We would agree! The general expectation is that 1 CAT corresponds to ten hours of study. However, this should apply for the module as a whole. It may well be that some worksheets take longer than others to work through.
- There are no PX153 typed notes in term 2.
We will pass this back to the lecturer. We leave decisions on how to prepare lecture notes to individual staff members. Some staff believe that encouraging students to look for support from textbooks is essential, while others like to produce their own texts. We support both approaches.

Second year matters

- There is sometimes a lack of clarity in the explanations and structure of PX275 (term 2).
We interpret this to mean that there are a lack of numbered subsection titles in the handwritten notes. We will pass this back to the lecturer.
- A lot of abbreviations are used in PX264.
The lecturer has been made aware of this comment.
- There are no handwritten notes for PX280 (term 2) on Moodle.
We will pass this on to the lecturer. Students are encouraged to make their own notes, either during the lecture, or when watching the recording.
- The PX265 slides are not uploaded to Moodle.
We will pass this back to the lecturer.
- The most recent assignment for PX281 was harder than the others.
While the earlier assignments are designed to help students to gain experience of particular aspects of coding, the final assignment(s) are meant to be more challenging.

Remember that the module is worth 15 credits and should, by the University norms, require 150 hours of work.

- The PX275 term 2 worksheet on PDEs was more difficult than the module's term 1 worksheets.

The sheets are designed to ensure that students can work with the techniques that are needed in physics modules. Some techniques towards the end of the module are more advanced.

Third year matters

- PX390 assignment 4 was more difficult than assignments 1-3, perhaps because of the underlying mathematics, rather than the programming per se.

As with PX281 the assignments are meant to become progressively more challenging as the module progresses.

- One of the PX3A8 rooms (in the Junction) has no Lecture Capture facilities.

This is a room which has only recently been released into the central timetable. We are indebted to the resourcefulness of the current lecturer in manufacturing his own videos! We will make a special request next year that we are not allocated this room again, until Lecture Capture facilities have been extended to it.

Fourth year matters

None.

Mathematics matters

None.