

Action Points
arising from the meeting of the
Student Staff Liaison Committee
on 17th October 2016

I.T. matters

The printer in the Physical Sciences workroom is not working.

Building matters

None

First Year matters

None (as the representatives are yet to be elected)

Second Year matters

None

Third year matters

- Some students requested that the lecture notes from last year's presentation of *Mathematical Methods III (PX440)* are made available. Michael Pounds will start to build up an archive of old lecture notes on a centralised Moodle page which will be accessible by all Physics undergraduates. Where a module has had a recent change of lecturer, the notes used by the previous lecturer will be considered for upload to the archive, although we do not promise that the archive will be comprehensive. The archive will include the notes from last year's presentation of PX440.
- An assignment deadline for *Scientific Computing (PX390)* clashes with a lab report hand-in date. PX390 has a hand-in time of 2pm on a Friday in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, plus two next term. The MPhys lab has reports due by 11am on a Thursday of weeks 5, 8 and one next term. So although there are two assignments due in week 8, we trust that sufficient notice has been given to allow students to plan their time accordingly.
- Some students thought that the derivations in *Quantum Physics of Atoms (PX382)* (which are presented on projected slides) were moved through rather too swiftly during lectures. We have passed this comment on to the lecturer concerned, and drawn his attention to the Departmental policy on Powerpoint-style lectures.

Fourth year matters

- Some students thought that they were being expected to do seven hours of extra work for *General Relativity (PX436)* each week, which they thought excessive. This refers to a note on the module's homepage, which reminds students about the amount of work that should be spent on any 3 lecture a week module according to national guidelines on CATs. The lecturer acknowledges that students are unlikely to commit this

much time but he still wants to encourage students to put as much work in as they can while the module progresses.

Maths matters

- *Algebra I (MA251)* – the lecturer forgot to turn up to the first lecture. In the second lecture he told students that there is no need to turn up to lectures, due to the high standard of the notes (and consequently attendance is already relatively poor).
The Maths department are aware of the issue.
- *Vector Analysis (MA321)* – Some students reported feeling at a disadvantage, having not taken *Geometry and Motion (MA134)*. It was suggested that an email could be sent to students with a guide to what material (from, for example, the *Tutorial PX129* worksheets) it might be beneficial for them to refresh before the module starts.
Personal tutors were encouraged to revise this material with their tutees as usual this year. Next year, we will instruct tutors to work through certain questions explicitly in their tutorial in week 1. It is worth pointing out that the module is self-contained and only needs some notation from MA134. Previous years (all of them) show that Maths/Physics students perform at least as well on this module as on other core maths modules.