

**Meeting of the Student Staff Liaison  
Committee on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023**

**First year matters**

- The graduate markers in the first-year laboratory do not appear to mark consistently. Each student will receive comments from many graduate markers so that, on average, any variations will even out. Graduate students like academic staff want to help you to learn and it is natural that they will place slightly different emphases on aspects.
- The induction materials, and induction generally, were liked by students

**Second year matters**

- PX280 Environmental Physics. Sometimes the problems looked at in class require information that had not been given. Would it be possible to record what is on the board as well as the visualiser?  
We have passed the point about the information on to the lecturer. It should be possible to record the board as well as the visualiser.
- PX262 Quantum Mechanics. Students did not feel that they had been well-prepared for the online quiz. The lecturer was using the delta-function without explaining what it was.  
We have discussed this with the lecturer, who was grateful for the feedback.

**Third year matters**

- There is no tiered seating in OC0.02 and LIB2 making it hard to see the board  
There is a compromise between finding the best rooms and finding the best time slots. The University's allocation of rooms works off the number of students registered and the numbers who turn up for a module the previous year. We review attendance at lectures and the design of the timetable every year.
- Third Year Laboratory STM Experiment. The Lab script may need updating. There were samples referred to which were not available (graphite grown on copper). The demonstrators could not get the low Density of States experiment to work. The instructions to image the TaS<sub>2</sub> samples are very brief.  
Please let lecturers know of corrections to lab scripts (and lecture notes) whenever you come across them. Part of the aim of the third-year laboratory is to encourage students to work out solutions to issues and to avoid too much of a 'paint-by-numbers' approach.
- PX3A2 notes with small type do not project well in MS01. Some students liked this module while others said that it seemed to be rushing.  
MS01 is not well-suited to dual projection. It was designed primarily as a blackboard lecture theatre. The MS building is celebrated across the UK (and even beyond) for its blackboards. The lecturer has agreed to look for ways to improve visibility.

- PX3A7 (and other modules) sometimes recommend large numbers of books. This can be unhelpful if students are looking for longer explanations of things mentioned in lectures. Can the lecturers explain more clearly where to find what students need? We have passed this on to the lecturer. Again, we would say that it is often best to ask the lecturer directly about such issues. They can post answers to questions directly onto their module forum.
- PX3A1/3A0 Project – some information about the project did not get to some students whose transfer to the 3-year course went through late. This was probably related to the delays in the Centre processing transfer requests. We will work to reduce these problems in future.
- There was positive feedback about PX3A6 Cosmology.

#### **Fourth year matters**

- PX455 Frontiers of Particle Physics has appeared to be rushing through material. We have passed this on to the lecturers.
- PX436 General Relativity. The handwriting of super- and sub-scripts is hard to decipher particularly in PS1.28. Could the lecturer write more clearly and perhaps write in landscape so that all the projected space is being used? The lecturer has agreed to try this.

#### **Mathematics matters**

- There is no lecture capture for MA4L0 Advanced Topics in Fluids. This makes it difficult for students who cannot attend particular lectures (some lectures clash with project meetings and other things). Could the lecturer annotate her written notes to show where she had got to in each lecture? It is always best in general to make such requests directly to the lecturer.

#### **General**

- Computers in the workroom do not all work. They do all work when plugged in. Students seem to unplug them to use the sockets. We will ask for more sockets and review the computing provision.
- A moodle innovation this year is to collate each week's assignments into a To-Do list. This does not seem to be working consistently for physics modules. For example, the assignments for PX3A3 appear but not PX3A2. We will investigate this. It is possible that assignments not directly on the moodle platform (PX3A2 is on moodlex) are not picked up.