

**Meeting of the Student Staff Liaison
Committee on 19th February 2024**

First year matters

- Some Tutorial worksheets are harder than others.
We would expect this. What matters more is the total amount of time you spend. The five worksheets combined are worth 5 CATS credits, and should therefore take approximately 50 hours to work through (as a general rule 1 CATS credit = 10 hours of work).
- The number of lectures each day is not consistent, for example, there are only three on a Wednesday.
The University does not permit lectures to be given on Wednesday afternoons. This time is for student society meetings.
- Students are still raising questions during PX153 lectures which are only answered tangentially (see minutes from the previous meeting).
Again, we encourage students to re-ask questions if necessary, after the lecture, on the Moodle forum, or by email. Students can also ask for help from their graduate tutor and their personal tutor.
- Students are waiting a long time for feedback on PX159 assignments. Some are self-learning, without watching the videos or attending the workshops.
All feedback is returned well within the 20 working day University limit. In the module questionnaire, respondents in recent years have in general said they like the workshops and benefit from the video material.
- There are no lecture notes on the PX156 Moodle page. There are also no recordings of what is written on the blackboard.
In the folder *Extra notes* on Moodle there are handwritten notes which broadly follow what is written during lectures. Together with the slides, they cover the syllabus. We apologise for the technical difficulties. It was not possible to record two lectures, and so recordings from a previous presentation have been imported. I.T. are working on the problem for us. The lecturer now has some new chalk and will write a little bigger – which will hopefully improve readability in the recording. We are pleased that the lectures on this module are well attended.
- Positive feedback was received for PX158.
We have passed this on to the module team.

Second year matters

- PX262, PX284, PX285 only have visualiser notes uploaded on a weekly basis, not on a lecture-by-lecture basis.
We have passed this back to the lecturers concerned. This frequency is normal. If for disability reasons a student feels they would benefit from access to the notes more promptly, they can raise this request either with the lecturer directly, or with the UG office.

Third year matters

- The recommended texts for PX3A4 are all physical books, which are all on loan. Can eBook resources be suggested? One lecture each week has been moved one hour earlier, and now clashes with the only MA3D1 seminar.
This has been passed on to the lecturers. We cannot guarantee that there will be no clashes with MA seminars, however we will bear this in mind for next year's timetable.
- The whiteboard is not always captured properly in PX3A8 lectures.
It is usually possible to configure the camera. We will discuss with the lecturer.
- Each MA module has a seminar series associated with it. Can this be replicated for PX modules?
Except in the first year, we do not run seminar series for modules in physics. Our timetable is already full enough with lectures and laboratories/projects. We tried running online seminars for a couple of years but these were very poorly attended. We encourage students to submit questions directly to the lecturer so that they can address them either on their forum or in the lectures. The module Kinetic Theory has enough slack in the timetable to dedicate sessions to students' questions.
- We have been informed by members of the Chemistry SSLC, that only one past exam paper will be provided for each module from now on. Will this policy also apply to us?
We understand that such a trial was proposed within the Chemistry department. However there is no such plan in Physics. We intend to continue with the existing practice of providing papers, solutions, and examiners reports for the past five years.
- PX442: some students are unused to paper writing, and would appreciate more guidance.
MathsPhys students tend to do well on the third year lab module. In addition to guidance on the Moodle page, the module convenor is always happy to receive questions about how to structure your paper. That said, the experiments are all rather open-ended, and we encourage you to tell your own story. We do not want to be too prescriptive about what you should write.
- PX385 (Paul Goddard) and PX3A6 (particularly the quizzes) received positive feedback.
We have passed this back to the lecturers concerned.
- The student staff lunches are appreciated.
We are pleased to receive this positive feedback, after re-launching and extending the programme of lunches.

Fourth year matters

None

Mathematics matters

None