

AAC Minutes from Math Round Table Feedback

14th May, 2018

1 Minutes of the Meeting

Attendees: Colin, Malte, Scott, Alina, Maria, Takundei, Abhik, Prabhat, Kendra, Steffen, Mihail, Daniel, Marco

Meeting Place: Nordmetall Servery, 2:15

1.1 Info Points:

- 1) Purpose of the round table
- 2) Coming changes of the module system

1.2 Feedback:

- 3) Feedback of courses per year:
 - A) 1st-year:
 - (i) Math software lab is useless, if say mathematica skills are needed, teach them on demand
 - (ii) Want 7.5ects for analysis I
 - (iii) Mandatory tutorial, in which problems are solved together (perhaps as an option)
 - (iv) Also, helps the students checking themselves
 - (v) Analysis II: Currently, homework was too computational
 - (vi) Have advanced linear algebra/introductory linear algebra
 - (vii) Levels of linear algebra: matrix algebra (applied), foundations of linear algebra (medium), introductory linear algebra (advanced)
 - (viii) Second part of linear algebra in second semester (additionally to what is taught now), like at other German universities
 - (ix) Undergraduate seminar was very good
 - (x) Perhaps something similar in 6th semester
 - B) 2nd-year:
 - (i) More ects for elements of stochastic processes, remove elements of probability from math study program
 - (ii) Real analysis is taught too slowly currently
 - (iii) Complex analysis is fine
 - (iv) Switch algebra and topology (4th vs. 3rd semester)
 - (v) Calculus on manifolds should be in 4th semester as well
 - (vi) Numerical methods should be more computational
 - (vii) Applied core math module is fine

- C) 3rd-year:
- (i) Not allowed to take non-major specialization classes
 - (ii) Not enough courses in 5th semester
 - (iii) Idea: offering classes that can also be taken by masters/physicists, ...
 - (iv) Better advice to students regarding specialization classes
 - (v) Problem: no master. program
 - (vi) Want more specialization classes
 - (vii) Introductory Topology: second part was too quick and hand-waivy, why are smooth manifolds needed in topology, more about covering spaces
 - (viii) Going in direction of algebraic topology
 - (ix) Number theory: good, controversial: not really specialization class
 - (x) Calculus on manifolds: good
- 4) General issues:
- A) Some profs should be more open minded/careful
 - B) Grades are published late
 - C) Not enough classes in math, campus track need to take non math core module
 - D) Would be cool to be able to take other specialization/master classes instead of 4th core module
- 5) TAs:
- A) TAs are only given SA contracts and not enough hours, also too little guidance
- 6) Differential equations: not taught well, too unstructured
- 7) Under representation of females in math department (faculty)
- 8) Not enough info about thesis work, expectations for thesis
- A) Deadlines depends on supervisor
- 9) Triangles:
- A) Why are there no math triangles, like number theory. for anyone, math and politics
- 10) Better options and advertisements (just talk to profs to get spots) for Worldtrack
- 11) Better info/communication from faculty in general
- A) Module coordinators not accessible
- 12) Want lecture notes for all lectures
- A) Suggestions: readings for each lecture announced
 - B) Even better: Lecture notes,
 - (i) Either by professor
 - (ii) Or by a notes-taker (student), being payed and getting credits for it

2 Suggestions for changes

On behalf of the
Academic Affairs Committee
Undergraduate Student Government

Date: 14th May, 2018

Project officer,
Colin Rothgang
colin.rothgang@jacobs-university-usg.de

USG AAC chair,
Marco David
marco.david@jacobs-university-usg.de