Academic Affairs Committee
Undergraduate Student Government
Jacobs University Bremen

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
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Date: 14th May, 2018

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