

**Minutes**  
**Mathematical Sciences Faculty Meeting**  
**April 20, 2010**

Present: Booton, Eisenbarth, Hoffman, Kalies, Klingler, Lin, Locke, Long, Magliveras, Mullin, Niederhausen, Peitgen, Petrela, Popova, Qian, Richman, Schmidmeier, Steinwandt, Viola-Prioli, Wang, Yiu, Zhang.

Steve Locke, chair of the instructor search committee, reported that they met in person with two candidates and by phone with one. They decided Katarzyna Winkowska-Nowak was the only finalist who met our qualifications, and recommended that we make her an offer. The money will come from the dean's office. She has been teaching here as an adjunct. The faculty voted to hire Kasia, yes: 17, no: 1, abstain: 4.

Lee Klingler recommended that we begin embedding questions in final exams to prepare for SACS accreditation two years from now. That way we can show we are making an effort to improve our program. Faculty cannot be required to include these in their finals, but are urged to do so. Roger Goldwyn is preparing embedded questions for lower-division courses and Tomas Schonbek for some upper-division courses. Lower-division questions will be sorted by course, not by instructor or student. Instructors would record results and send them to Roger. It would be their choice whether to calculate the answers into students' grades.

Some faculty have raised objections to embedding questions in lower-division courses. Markus Schmidmeier said the amount of material that can be covered in such courses as Calculus 2 depends on how the class is doing and how much review they need, so common final exams are not feasible. Lee doesn't think we are ready for common finals in Calculus 1-3.

Roger has met with Gail Weisen, in charge of SACS accreditation at FAU, and the rest of the College of Science is on board to do embedded questions for evaluation. Lee and Heinrich have done it in upper-division courses.

Dash Petrela wanted to know if the embedded questions are the same from year to year, for consistency. Bill Kalies said we need to identify the skills needed and then come up with questions that test them. Daniela, at Roger's request, has written 12 embedded questions each for MGF 1106, MAC 2311, and MAC 2312. She has emailed them to professors teaching those courses for feedback, and the number of questions will be reduced to 6 for each course.

Jorge suggested it would be easier to collect data on embedded questions if we use Scantrons. But in courses above College Algebra, questions are mostly open response instead of multiple choice. Lee reminded everyone that if we don't get moving now we may lose a whole year on this. Dash said we should just get the data and can decide later if we want to use it. We will discuss the question at the next faculty meeting.