Minutes
Mathematical Sciences Faculty Meeting
January 25, 2011

Present: Booton, Eisenbarth, Hoffman, Klingler, Lin, Locke, Long, Lubarsky, Magliveras, Meyerowitz, Mullin, Niederhausen, Peitgen, Petrela, Popova, Qian, Sagher, Schmidmeier, Schonbek, Steinwandt, Wang, Yiu, Zhang.

A couple of announcements:
Lee Klingler asked anyone who has not yet returned assessments (embedded questions) to do so.
It appears that no one is going up for promotion or tenure in Spring 2011.
We have applicants for the math education position and will convene a meeting on that.

The Philosophy Department has met and approved the new logic course. Bob Lubarsky would probably teach it at first, but other faculty such as Daniela Popova and Markus Schmidmeier might also want to in the future. Bob has a textbook in mind. It is believed that the University of Florida offers such a course, and it was noted that the fact that there is a common course number for the course indicates that it could well be taught elsewhere in the state. Fred Hoffman said at FAU there is no other rigorous undergraduate logic course. H-O Peitgen believes this offering could become popular since the topics covered are not commonly discussed in other math or computer science classes. According to Bob, it relates to philosophy, computer science, and linguistics. He has contacted those departments and found them favorably disposed. But computer science students are practically, not abstractly, oriented. Our linguistics students are not mathematically prepared. Yoram Sagher doesn't think the course would run unless it attracts students outside the Math Department. But it might attract a few. It could count as an elective for math majors and minors but would not satisfy the general education requirement because it is at too high a level.

The faculty voted unanimously to establish Mathematical Logic (MHF 3306) in the catalog and make it an elective for math majors and minors.

Tomas Schonbek passed around proposed changes in requirements for the minor in statistics. The current minor and certificate in statistics are very similar. A certificate allowing Methods of Calculus instead of Calculus 1 and 2 might attract business students. If the certificate stays as is, there is a question as to whether Probability and Statistics 1 (STA 4442) should have a corequisite of Calculus 3 in the catalog; at present it only has prerequisites of Calculus 1 and 2. Also a question arose as to whether STA 4032 is more similar to STA 4442 or 4443, and which it should substitute for on the course requirements. Lianfen Qian and Hongwei Long will report.

H-O asked how students in this program are exposed to technology. Without knowledge of the large statistical packages now available, they would be handicapped in finding a job. Lianfen uses R, but thinks SAS should also be installed in the lab. She teaches her students about SAS and other packages. Lee pointed out that Roger's technology fee proposal (which was funded) included money for SAS in the lab, if anyone wants to use it in his or her course.

Fred Hoffman thinks the minimum grade for courses in the statistics minor should be C, not C-. The faculty voted unanimously to make this change.

Tomas proposed we eliminate Calculus 3 from the requirements for the statistics minor. Yoram Sagher agreed: our current Calculus 3 is too hard for statistics minors and the hard parts are not needed for statistics. The faculty voted unanimously to drop Calculus 3 from the requirements for the minor in statistics and reduce the number of credits required from 30 to 26.

Fred Hoffman moved to change the last sentence in the description of the minor in statistics to read: "At least 15 upper-division required credits must be completed at FAU." This was approved unanimously.

The faculty voted unanimously to approve the new requirements for the minor in statistics with the amendments.

Lianfen and Hongwei have given us a syllabus for Applied Time Series and Forecasting (STA 4852). This has been taught as a special topics course of the same name numbered STA 4930. The faculty unanimously approved making it a regular course.