



Mathematics Dept.

EDITOR: IRENE A. SANCINITO

Message from

Vice President Abasa-Nyarko

The Department of Mathematics embarked upon publishing a Newsletter with their Department activities. I welcome their initiative and appreciate that Professor Irene Sancinito assuming the responsibility to edit the Newsletter. I hope that it will help the faculty, in particular the adjunct faculty, to keep abreast with the activities of the Department.

I wish the Department of Mathematics all the best in this endeavor.



Charles Abasa-Nyarko, Ph. D.
Vice President of Academic Affairs

Adjunct Faculty Meeting a Success!

On Tuesday evening, August 28, 2007, the Mathematics Department held an open meeting for all full time and adjunct faculty. The committee consisting of Bogusia Wojciechowska, Yvette Straughter, Irene Sancinito, Adele Hamblett, Shirley MacKenzie, Kiruba Murugaiah and Y. Venkat Rao met during the summer to discuss and prepare the agenda. All agenda items are specific to the mathematics department and materials were distributed to all attendees. Included with the materials is a very informative Resource handbook for Mathematics Faculty.

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First Department Meeting held in the afternoon of Convocation

MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 30th, 2007 **Time:** 2:30PM **Room:** B 224

In Attendance:

Shirley MacKenzie, Joanne Manville, Samer Darwish, Christian Agunwamba, Chris Watson, Yvette Straughter, Irene Sancinito, Adele Hamblett, Charles Abasa-Nyarko, Ted Carlson, Y. Venkat Rao, Kiruba Murugaiah

Conducted by: Y. Venkat Rao

Minutes Recorded by: Kiruba Murugaiah

Handouts:

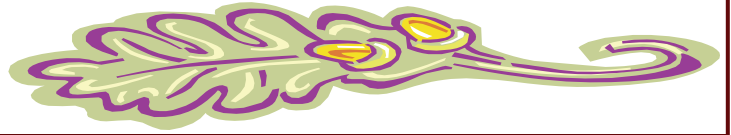
Copy of new proposal for developmental courses

Copy of new Travel Policy for all faculty

Copy of Building the Engaged Campus course descriptions to be offered in Spring 2008

(Cont. on p. 2)

Department Meeting Minutes (cont.)



Agenda:

1. Welcome Back

2. New Proposal for Developmental Courses

- a. Mandatory meeting for math faculty to discuss the new proposal for the Developmental Math course sequences will be held September 18th, 2007 from 1:15PM – 3:00PM in E 175
- b. Y. Venkat Rao will speak to Susan Dole about conflict with MCCC meeting held at the same time
- c. Any Pros and Cons for the proposal should be presented with hard data during this meeting so as to avoid unnecessary discussion.

3. Math Computer Lab

- a. M 103 is the home of the Math Department's very own computer lab (900 sqft)
- b. Room became available July 18th for renovation after the end of Summer Session I
- c. Y.V. Rao worked closed with Joe Stephano to prepare the room, install carpeting, install desks, whiteboard, bulletin boards, etc.
- d. 25 computers will be installed
- e. Academic Computing will be responsible for troubleshooting
- f. Proxy lock will be installed soon for the door
- g. Software needs to be ordered for Sketchpad, TI Interactive, TI Inspire, and MathType
- h. Derive has 21 licenses on the HP Tablets that will be installed on the computers in the Math Lab
- i. Derive is discontinued as of June 2007 and replaced by TI Inspire which will be available after October 2007
- j. Computer Lab Coordinator position has been sent to HR for hiring
- k. Note that Math Computer Lab is Phase One of achieving the original Math Space concept
- l. Lab is not designed for tutoring
- m. Many details pertaining to Math Lab usage prior to the hiring of a full time Math Coordinator were discussed. For now, the lab will only be used when faculty need to bring in their class. The lab will not be available for drop in service for students until a later date.

A great big **THANK YOU** to those who worked hard in making this computer lab a reality (Venkat, Amparo, Ted et al)

4. Math Adjunct Faculty Meeting

- a. Held on August 28th, 2007 from 5:00PM – 7:00PM in Room E 175
- b. Organizing Committee (Bogusia Wojciechowska, Yvette Straughter, Irene Sancinito, Adele Hamblett, Shirley MacKenzie, Kiruba Murugaiah, Y. Venkat Rao)
- c. 17 adjuncts in attendance
- d. 46 adjuncts in the department

Department Meeting Minutes (cont.)

- e. Attendees were given a Math Adjunct Faculty Handbook (contact Y. Venkat Rao for a copy)
- f. Adjuncts want another meeting again in January
- 5. Technical Math Course
 - a. Proposal from the Division of Professional Studies and Dr. Sharda Gupta for a mathematics course for the Carpenter's Union
 - b. Akram Bhuiya is putting together the course
 - c. They will need to consult math department after designing the course for approval
- 6. Department Chair Meeting
 - a. 2 copies of course syllabi and schedules must be sent to Dean's Office by end of first week of classes
 - b. Preference is to send course syllabi electronically to Christiane Maziarz
 - c. Do not schedule office hours at 7:00AM
 - d. Submit grades within 48 hours of final exam
- 7. Exit Exam for MAT 090
 - a. 090 Exit Exam will remain as is until the Sept 18th meeting on the new proposal to change the course sequence
 - c. Since the computerized test will consist of a homogeneous pool of questions, all full-time faculty and adjunct faculty will use Final Exam Part A and Part B and will no longer use the written 40 question exam. (See page 15 –16 of the Adjunct Faculty Handbook for more details)
 - d. Request was made to Shirley/Yvette for data on exit testing by Y. Venkat Rao
 - e. Shirley had completed a report in 2005
- 8. Other Business
 - a. Mission Statement and Departmental Goals will be provided to Ian to include in Departmental Website.
 - b. Christian Agunwamba collaborated with Andy Reyes on the Learning Community Course **Got Math?...It Works**. The course will run in Spring 08 under 500 numbers and be brought to curriculum committee for review.
 - c. Discussion on Workforce Development: Math department is unaware of courses taught in Workforce Development that are listed as math courses. Y.V. Rao is looking into the disparity. Few years ago, Yvette Straughter and Irene Sancinito gave objectives list, course description, etc. to Workforce Development however this is not sufficient to ensure that courses taught follow the same objectives as the Math Department's. The Department needs to facilitate more open communication with Workforce Development!



Adjunct Meeting (cont.)

Meeting Agenda

Introduction (Y. Venkat Rao)

Welcome (Vice President Dr. Charles Abasa – Nyarko)

IP Grades, Course Objectives, Final Exams and Computer Lab

(Y. Venkat Rao)

100% Math Initiative (Kiruba Murugaiah)

MAT 090 Exit Exam

(Shirley MacKenzie and Yvette Straughter)

MyMath Lab (Gene O'Brien and Kevin O'Brien)

Using Web Based Materials and Gen Ed Requirement (Adele Hamblett and Irene Sancinito)

Weekend College (Dean Sakamoto)

Closing Remarks (Dean Mhlaba)

For more information please contact any mathematics faculty on the committee.

Yvette Straughter, (2279)

Shirley MacKenzie, (2287)

Irene Sancinito, (3309)

Kiruba Murugaiah, (2418)

Adele Hamblett, (2266)

Y. Venkat Rao (2269)

It is hoped that this newsletter will help keep all faculty, full time and adjunct alike, informed of all mathematics department events. It will be published monthly. Math department meeting notes will be published and any other newsworthy events. If you have any suggestions or have a story you would like published, please forward it to Irene A. Sancinito, Mathematics Department at BHCC or send it to isancinito@bhcc.mass.edu.

