

Minutes of JMC Council Meeting, in the Novotel Hotel, Euston on Thursday 15 February 2007.

Present

*Officers*

Ros Sutherland	Chair
David Martin	Honorary Secretary

*Members*

Sue Pope	Association of Mathematics Education Teachers
John Hibbs	Association of Teachers of Mathematics
June Barrow-Green	British Society for the History of Mathematics
Andrew Osbaldestin	Conference of Heads of Departments of Mathematical Sciences
Colin Campbell	Edinburgh Mathematical Society
Nigel Steele	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Vanessa Thorogood	Institute of Mathematics and its Applications
Elizabeth Winstanley	London Mathematical Society
Barry Lewis	The Mathematical Association
Sally Barton	National Association for Numeracy and Mathematics in Colleges
Gerald Goodall	Royal Statistical Society

*Co-opted members*

James Nicholson	BCME
Sue Sanders	ICMI

*Observers*

Diana Coben	Adults Learning Mathematics
Margaret Brown	Advisory Committee on Mathematics Education
Tony Holloway	Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DELLS)
Cynthia Davies	Department for Education and Skills
Roger Porkess	Mathematics in Education and Industry
Graham Smart	The National Strategies
Sue Merchant	Operational Research Society
Nick Doran	Qualifications and Curriculum Authority
Nick Von Behr	Royal Society
Paul Scruton	School Mathematics Project

Alf Brown	Teacher Development Agency
Jackie Beswick	Teacher Development Agency
Bill Richardson	United Kingdom Mathematics Trust

Ros Sutherland welcomed everyone to the meeting, commenting on the different surroundings.

Item	Action
<p><b>1. Apologies</b>            Adrian Oldknow (Honorary Treasurer); Ken Ruthven (BSRLM); Duncan Lawson (HEA); Jane Jones (Ofsted); Michael Reiss (RS); Brian Robinson (NAMA); John Harris (SEMTA); Celia Hoyles (Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England)); Colin Mathews (NCETM).</p>	
<p><b>2. Appreciation of departing representatives</b>            Ros Sutherland expressed thanks to George Paterson from the ORS for his time on the Council.</p>	
<p><b>3. Welcome to new representatives, alternates and visitors</b>            A welcome was extended to Cynthia Davies (DfES); Sue Merchant (alternate for Paul Harper, ORS); Vanessa Thorogood (visitor from IMA); Jackie Beswick (visitor from TDA).</p>	
<p><b>4. Minutes of the meeting of 9 November 2006</b>            There were no corrections.</p>	
<p><b>5. Matters arising from the minutes</b>            Sue Pope asked about the status of the single cross-subject association. There seemed to be no information so the matter was referred to the next meeting.             Sue Merchant reiterated the invitation to comment on the OR paper, submitted at the last meeting by George Paterson.            With reference to the TDA section of the minutes, Sue Pope expressed the concerns of AMET regarding the difficulty of obtaining sufficient placements for student teachers. Ros Sutherland asked how this situation might be improved. There was a discussion in which the following points were made: perhaps NCETM could assist; schools might have pressure exerted on them if the obligation were enshrined in 'standards'; the GTC should be able to bring pressure to bear; the IMA Chartered Mathematics Teacher status might provide a route.</p>	<p>Contact Colin Matthews re status of single cross-subject association  <b>(David Martin)</b></p>

<p><b>6. Reports from Executive</b></p> <p>(Note: the members of the executive are: Ros Sutherland; David Martin; Adrian Oldknow; Gerald Goodall, Barry Lewis and Elizabeth Winstanley.</p> <p>(a) Chair</p> <p>(i) Ros Sutherland asked for views on the idea of JMC having some sort of presence or display at IMCE 11 (Mexico, July 2008). There was definite agreement that efforts should be made to do so.</p> <p>(ii) Ros Sutherland asked that, with reference to successful bids to the ESRC targeted initiative on science and mathematics , JMC would do whatever it could to support successful bids.</p> <p>(iii) Ros Sutherland also said that the Executive was keen to return to and review the JMC Network and Relationship 8 February 2005 paper as a basis for discussing what the JMC should be doing, including any restructuring and clarification of the links with ACME.</p> <p>(b) Honorary Secretary</p> <p>David Martin asked that the attendance sheet be circulated and completed.</p> <p>(c) Honorary Treasurer</p> <p>There was a short report. Nick von Behr pointed out that the government grant for the RS was from the DTI and not from the DfES.</p> <p>The JMC expenses form was circulated</p> <p>(d) Chair of Nominations Committee – nothing to report</p>	<p>Send out to JMC Organisations details of review (<b>David Martin</b>)</p>
<p><b>7. Discussion with Chief Advisor for Mathematics (England)</b></p> <p>Nothing for this meeting as apologies had been sent.</p>	
<p><b>8. Report from ACME</b></p> <p>In addition to the report already circulated, Margaret Brown tabled a press release from ACME. This was entitled ‘New maths GCSEs could leave pupils unprepared for A-Level’. Whilst much was fixed with respect to the new maths GCSEs, it was possible that such a statement may have some influence with regard to implementation.</p> <p>Ros Sutherland felt that this was the best stage to discuss agenda item 16. Margaret Brown reported that plans were fixed for two distinct GCSEs rather than for a double award. There were some serious issues relating to the names of the two courses as many likely labels</p>	

<p>had been used up. Nick Doran referred to QCA's advice to ministers, which would be available under the Freedom of Information (FOI) publication scheme. [see <a href="http://www.qca.org.uk/12039.html">http://www.qca.org.uk/12039.html</a>] . He stated that QCA's advice about the relationship between GCSE and GCE was along similar lines to what ACME's position paper stated. Although QCA has not published any aspiration or target figures for uptake of GCSE2 Nick Doran commented on ACME's 60-80% aspiration for GCSE2 by stating that awarding bodies involved in the trials and pilots have indicated that schools are indicating that they are considering targeting 70% of the cohort for GCSE2. Cynthia Davies observed that although there had been no response on the ACME press release, it had been discussed within DfES. This discussion involved Andrew Adonis (Minister for Schools) but the views would not result in a change of the policy that a single GCSE was sufficient to embark on an A-level course.</p> <p>Margaret Brown commented that in the pilots, named strands were being used rather than mathematical titles e.g. problem-solving and application.</p> <p>In response to a question, Nick Doran said that it was planned that the new courses would be taught from 2010. There was a discussion of the qualification status of pupils who took part in trial and pilot schemes. The former typically not leading to a qualification whereas pilots are fully accredited qualifications in their own right.</p> <p>Margaret Brown made some brief comments on her initial report. In particular, she commented on how useful it was to have representation on other committees and thus to be able to keep in touch with other activities. She made particular reference to the ACME Conference: The Mathematical Needs of 14-19 Pathways on Wednesday 7 February 2007. There were in excess of 200 delegates, many of whom were teachers. There was a transcript of the video speech Lord Adonis made for the conference.</p>	
<p><b>9. Members Item</b> Request for questions from JMC organisations that could usefully be asked of all JMC organisations.</p>	<p>Consider questions to ask all and send to Honorary Secretary <b>(All)</b></p>
<p><b>10. Standing Committees</b> BCME: In addition to the circulated report, James Nicholson confirmed that the committee had decided to go with Manchester as the venue for BCME 7 in April 2010. Ideas for plenary speakers would be very welcome.</p>	<p>Plenary Speaker ideas to James Nicholson for BCME7 <b>(All)</b></p>
<p><b>11. Higher Education</b> Elizabeth Winstanley commented that the figures from HESA on the</p>	

<p>number of applications for undergraduate degrees were very encouraging. They showed an increase of 6.4% across all subjects , but over 10% in mathematics. Andrew Osbaldestin commented that these figures included significant increases (up to 20%) in the Post92 universities. In response to a question, it was stated that these increases were ‘real’ - they were not the result of re-designating courses which had not been included in mathematics previously. Year-on-year, these figures are encouraging and may turn out to show an increase over 5 years.</p> <p>On the MoreMathsGrads project, Nigel Steele confirmed that the launch was to take place on April 23rd and that the recently appointed Project Manager was Helen Orr.</p> <p>Andrew Osbaldestin remarked that his colleagues in HE were pleased with the ACME statement on GCSE. In contrast, they were concerned over the 2008 RAE which would adopt a metrics driven approach.</p>	
<p><b>12. Teacher Education</b> Sue Pope had a few extra comments on her report.</p>	
<p><b>13. International Affairs</b> On ICME11, 6-11 July 2008, Sue Sanders commented that there was still no website in operation. She asked if those member organisations which held conferences would be willing to insert information in delegate packs and this was agreed. Sue Sanders asked to be told when they were needed and how many. As yet there was no information about funding but there was some background activity. The idea of a UK presence was discussed further and the point made that it might be more appropriate to make it a JMC initiative than a governmental one. Ros Sutherland commented that she would ask the ICME organisers about the possibility of booking space.</p>	<p>Inform Sue Sanders of flyer needs (<b>JMC organisations holding conferences</b>)</p> <p>Ask ICME organisers about booking space. (<b>Ros Sutherland</b>)</p>
<p><b>14. JMC Website</b> Nothing to report.</p>	
<p><b>15. Update on current developments.</b> (a) TDA Alf Brown amplified briefly on his circulated report. TDA was pleased that applications were up. An increase overall of about 3% and in mathematics by 7%. TDA feels that the campaigns are generating increased interest. He asked that conference organisers do what they can to ask teachers to promote the profession. Sue Pope commented that whilst AMET were pleased that funding was now available for students on a two-year course those who were on a three-year course were being</p>	<p>Promote Mathematics Teaching Profession (<b>JMC organisations holding conferences</b>)</p> <p>Organisational and Individual response to consultation invited - copied to ACME (<b>All</b>)</p>

disadvantaged. She also expressed concerns over a recent TDA advertisement. Alf Brown responded that views on the nature of advertisements were canvassed beforehand and campaigns could never please all those concerned, the evidence was that they were working.

Add HMI report, including format, discussion onto next meeting agenda (**David Martin**)

(b) QCA

Nick Doran made some brief comments on his circulated report. There were two consultations taking place: one related to the DfES consultation “Making good progress” on tests and the other on the Secondary Curriculum Review.

It was noted that we were in the statutory consultation period for change of programmes of study. We are invited to complete both questionnaires on the programmes of study and linked from the same page on the supporting guidance.

Although Nick Doran said that individual responses were of value, responses from organisations were particularly welcome. Margaret Brown observed that ACME will make a response. ACME would be interested in the responses from JMC members.

Concerns were expressed that ‘test when ready’ might result in acceleration through levels.

The consultation period was due to close on 30th April.

(c) DELLS

In addition to his circulated report, Tony Holloway commented that in Wales, the various Attainment Targets were going to be merged into just one - Mathematics,

Margaret Brown asked if there was to be an evaluation of the changes to Key Stage 3 in Wales. Tony Holloway said there was and that information was available on the website.

(d) OFSTED

There was no discussion of the report but it was noted that in the February minutes the stated intention was to discuss the new HMI report at this meeting. It was agreed that this would be carried forward to the June meeting.

(e) The National Strategies

Further to the written papers, Graham Smart observed that there were queries over the time lines for Functional Maths.

<p>Sue Sanders asked for some background on Mark Jenner (see report). The strong mathematics background was welcome. Mark would provide valuable support for 14-19 developments.</p>	
<p><b>16. GCSE Mathematics</b> This was dealt with under item 8.</p>	
<p><b>17. Dates of future meetings</b> The next two meetings will be on Tuesday 5 June 2007 and Thursday 8 November 2007 at the Royal Society. The date proposed by the Executive, Thursday 21 February 2008 was agreed. Concern was expressed over the clash with the NCETM event. As JMC dates were fixed well ahead, members were asked to make them as widely know as possible. It was noted that the NCETM website had a calendar which was available for consulting.</p>	
<p><b>18. AOB</b> Sue Merchant drew members' attention to two organisations: (a) Maths Inspiration (<a href="http://www.mathsinspiration.com">www.mathsinspiration.com</a>) which used theatre presentations to inspire sixth-formers. (b) The Brightside Trust (<a href="http://www.thebrightsidetrust.org">www.thebrightsidetrust.org</a>) which tries to assist disadvantaged youngsters.</p>	

The meeting closed at 12.30pm. Many of those present went across to the British Library Conference Centre for lunch and to join in with the NCETM conference. Thanks to the NCETM for both enabling and funding this.