

Minutes of meeting of 1/13/06

Announcements by JE : (a) The common final in college algebra had an 80% failure rate

(b) The new union contract is in line with USF and others.

What I know is

- promotion to $\begin{cases} \text{associate} \\ \text{full} \end{cases}$ yields a $\begin{cases} \{12\% \\ \{10\% \end{cases}$ raise (or vice-versa)
- Summer salaries, currently paid at .11 FTE per credit hour, will now be paid at .125 FTE per credit hour for the 1st course, .11 FTE per credit hour for the 2nd course, and a 3rd course will be capped at \$5000.
- the grievance article has been resolved in a way satisfactory to the union, but it's not as before. The final arbiter will now be a panel which is a mix of academics and administrators.

(c) I've been tracking enrollment this semester :

linear algebra : 66

abstract algebra : 26

advanced calculus : 27 . These are high numbers.

When questioned JE didn't know how many were math majors, but CCao said that 70% in advanced calculus were.

(d) The summer teaching schedule should be out soon.

(e) Madelyn G. wants to link the webpages of everyone to

the tutoring. When asked if the link could be removed by individual faculty, JE said yes. (2)

(f) JE asked the calculus course coordinators to exert more control over syllabus coverage. JE said that the data will be used in the year-end evaluation of the teaching. This is the policy from now on.

Next there was a long discussion of whether to make adjustments to the syllabi of calculus I and calculus II. This led to a discussion of

- (i) whether the syllabi are completed, especially in calculus I;
- (ii) whether, because of the possibility of extensive losses of class time, the topics in calculus I could be prioritized;
- (iii) the variation in grading, in both calculus I and II, which some said was too large.

It was decided that no changes would be made to the syllabi in calculus I and calculus II.

It was reported (by DR) that the topics which are sometimes missed in calculus I are the parametric equations (1.8, 11.2 in Anton) and the "sophisticated" graphing (5.3 in Anton)

JE ruled against making any prioritization of topics in the calculus I syllabus, other than

Priority 1: entire syllabus
Priority 2: parametric equations, "sophisticated" graphing

JE promised to make allowances for acts of God.

(3)

J.E. also ruled against having a policy to combat extreme variation in grading, but asked the calculus coordinators to speak to the instructors at both extremes and to provide to him the pass rates of the instructors.

Next occurred a discussion of the 80% failure rate on the college algebra common final. Questions that arose were

(i) to what degree we should insure that the common final counted substantively toward the determination of the final grade,

and (ii) whether to switch to large sections for lectures, together with multiple meetings per week of smaller recitations, with the lectures to be given by regular faculty and the recitations to be run by adjuncts. Experience at other universities was cited.

No conclusion was reached on this topic, as the discussion of it became mixed with that of the next topic.

The final topic was prerequisite enforcement. It was reported by JE that Panthersoft prerequisite enforcement worked pretty well in calculus II, calculus III, ODE. Negative experience with placement tests at other universities was cited. The advising system here was reported to be broken. After a

long discussion,

Motion (Aladro) Starting in summer 2006, Panthersoft shall be used to enforce the calculus I prerequisite. Those students who are blocked from enrolling by Panthersoft may remove that blockage by achieving a sufficiently high score on a placement exam to be given by the department, or by having their enrollment approved by the chairman.

The motion was approved by a voice vote with 1 dissent.

recorded by JZ