
Advisory Committee and Autumn Activities

Message from John Blake, Director

I am pleased to advise that the membership of the Advisory Committee for 2000-2001 will be:

Chair:

Professor Robert Curnow (RSS)

Members:

Professor Chris Robson, LMS representative
Professor Nigel Steele, IMA representative
Professor Ken Houston, Chair of the HoDoMS Committee
Professor Robert Fildes, ORS representative
Professor Terri Scott, Director, LTSN Information and Computer Science
Professor David Baume, Open University

Ex-officio:

Professor John Blake, Director
Professor Neville Davies, Deputy Director
Ms Pam Bishop, Assistant Director
Mr Cliff Allen, Director of the LTSN Programme.

The Advisory Committee will:

- Advise on strategic management
- Provide an independent and external auditing role for the Centre's activities
- Ensure appropriate dissemination through relevant associations and networks
- Advise on emerging national initiatives, pedagogic and technological developments
- Receive and comment upon financial management reports.

The Advisory Committee will meet twice per year, normally to coincide with the reporting schedule to LTSN. The first meeting will be held on 16 August 2000.

Workshops for Promoting Effective Methods of Learning and Teaching Statistics & OR

The last issue of *Maths, Stats & OR* included an appeal from Neville Davies for colleagues to help to achieve the aim of promoting effective methods of learning and teaching Statistics and OR. The whole article, which listed many ideas that could help us achieve our objectives, can be found at the web site <http://science.ntu.ac.uk/rsscse>. Our first phase of activity is to organize regional workshops for our volunteer departmental LTSN contacts or their nominees, to help us to shape our strategy for the next few years.

At each workshop we shall discuss the best methods for proceeding and devise a series of second phase workshops, designed to be both electronic and location-based, which are aimed to benefit all the UK HE statistical community. Depending on location, leaders of the workshops will include colleagues from the LTSN Statistics team comprising: Professors Adrian Bowman, Neville Davies, and Warren Gilchrist, Peter Holmes, Ewan Crawford and Dr Colin James.

The following dates and locations are tentative and will be confirmed in writing to all statistics contacts. Subsidised travel and subsistence will be given to all participants.

Sat 23 September, University of Wales Conference Centre, Gregynog, Newtown

Tue 3 October, Royal Statistical Society, 12, Errol Street, London

Wed 18 October, University of York

Fri 27 October, Department of Statistics, University of Glasgow

Fri 3 November, University of Bristol

Wed 8 November, Nottingham Trent University

Measuring the Mathematics Problem: What Next?

In 1995 the report *Tackling the Mathematics Problem* was published by the LMS, the IMA and the RSS. Five years on, the Gatsby Charitable Foundation funded a seminar in Cambridge which resulted in a second report *Measuring the Mathematics Problem*. This was recently circulated to Heads of Departments in mathematics, science and engineering throughout the UK. An Executive Summary is enclosed with this newsletter, and the full report can be found at <http://www.engc.org.uk/gateway/3/mathsreport.pdf>

The Maths, Stats & OR Network has set up an email discussion list relating to this report. If you would like to join, send the following single line message to mailbase@mailbase.ac.uk
`join measure-maths-problem <firstname> <surname>`

We plan to follow up this publication with a series of workshops when academics involved in service teaching can get together to find out how the problem is being tackled in different institutions, share their experiences and cooperate on finding solutions. The first workshop is likely to take place in November at the University of Birmingham. Details will be circulated via departmental contacts, via the email discussion list and on the Web.