

# Minutes of 8/30/07 Meeting of the Departmental Committee on Curriculum Revision

**Attendees:** Cabral, Ryan, Roberto, Al, and Brian.

## **Revision and Standardization of Math 2326 (Introduction to Abstract Mathematics)**

- It was suggested by Al that a “pilot” version of the revised course be team-taught in the Spring of 2008 by Cabral, Ryan and Brian who would each receive 1 course hour of teaching credit. Each would be expected to attend the lectures of the others to ensure a coherent overall presentation. Given the lightened teaching demands on the department this Spring, all present agreed this arrangement seemed plausible.
- It was generally felt that the primary goal of the revision would be to standardize content, both the methods and techniques of proof that are presented, as well as the mathematical concepts used to illustrate them. The number of new definitions would be kept to a minimum so that students could spend less time digesting new ideas and more time focused on proof. Suggested subject matter included basic real analysis, basic point-set topology and basic abstract algebra.
- It was proposed that during the Summer of 2008 the lecture notes from the Spring 2008 offering be written into a formal document which, in subsequent offerings of the course, would be refined and could eventually be used as the course text.
- It was suggested that we apply for one of Trinity’s Curricular and Pedagogical Innovations Grants to fund the project.
- Roberto agreed to request permission for the team teaching arrangement from the administration.

## **Bachelor of Arts vs Bachelor of Science in Mathematics**

- All present agreed that, while only a BA degree in Mathematics is currently available, the availability of a BS degree might be a concern for students. The simplest proposed solution is to leave the current degree requirements unchanged and simply allow the students to choose which label (BA or BS) they would prefer. The department would provide suggested course tracks for each degree. This proposal has been presented to the administration and a response is pending.
- In support of this proposal, Cabral noted that the math department’s current course requirements (in terms of course hours) for the BA degree are the same as those for a BS in Physics or Chemistry.
- Should the first proposal be denied by the administration, Brian suggested that the department’s current degree be relabeled a BS and that slightly modified course guidelines be introduced for a BA degree. For the proposed BA degree, it was proposed to replace two of the required 3000 level math courses with 3000 level courses from another science (e.g. Physics, Computer Science or Biology). This idea will be considered further if necessary.

### Schedule of Course Offerings

- It was proposed to revise the offerings of the real analysis and algebra sequences according to the following periodic two year schedule:

F	S	F	S
Analysis I	Analysis II		Analysis I
	Algebra I	Algebra I	Algebra II

That is, it is proposed to move the "lone" offerings of Algebra and Analysis to the Spring instead of the Fall.

- The hope is that this arrangement would improve enrollments in the "lone" Algebra I and Algebra II sections, while still allowing majors who go abroad to meet all of their departmental course requirements. Additionally, this would enable the department to move some 3000 level courses to the Fall with the possibility of 4000 level continuations in the Spring.
- To free up additional teaching hours it was proposed that only one (potentially large) section of Precalculus be offered per semester.