

October 20, 2016

Dr. Peifang Tian
Committee on Academic Policies, Chair

Dear Dr. Tian,

I thank you and the other members of the Committee on Academic Policies (CAP) very much for the thoughtful feedback regarding my initial proposal for the Minor in Actuarial Science. I have incorporated your feedback and that of the Dean, Dr. Farrar, and Associate Dean, Dr. Lacueva, given in their letter. To this purpose, I have made the following adjustments to my proposal:

1. I have indicated the availability of suitable instructors for MT 225. Although I am currently the only faculty member with ostensible professional qualifications to teach this course (having taken and passed the FM Exam), the mathematics and statistics involved in this course is at a level that, with enough preparation, any of the mathematics and statistics faculty could teach it quite excellently. Furthermore, if need be, we can ask local actuaries, including several JCU alums, to teach this course as a one-off.
2. Within the proposal, I have given possible 4-year plans for students in various majors. Please note that I have indicated in blue the courses that would count both towards the given major and the AS minor. Thus, you can see which additional courses are needed for the AS minor, albeit as long as you are viewing a color version of the proposal.

These templates exist mostly to indicate that majors, other than mathematics, can succeed in this minor. I created them without direct consultation with other faculty members. Hence, I view this part of the proposal as a palimpsest that may be easily modified by coordinators of the other majors (physics, economics, finance) to fit those majors more efficiently and more coherently.

3. Right now, I have not put any additional restraint on what courses a Math major/AS minor would have to take. As it stands, many math majors already take this course of study. I'd like to recognize via official JCU transcripts their work in this regard.
4. I have removed MT 225 as one of the "replaceable" courses.
5. I have addressed within the proposal the issues that you bring up regarding assessment. With an official minor on the books, I hope to be able to "gently nudge" our AS minor students to take each exam when they can. As long as we keep records of our alums in the program, it is very easy to keep track of their progress in the exams.

6. The Letter from UBC is forthcoming.

Please let me know if you have any other concerns or insights to the proposal as it now stands.

Best regards,

Brendan Foreman
Department of Mathematics and Computer Science