Unit Survey Feedback comments – Semester 2 – 2014/15

MATH36022 (Numerical Analysis 2) – Powell

- Assume less knowledge of the students.

I'm afraid that the course is designed to build on NA 1. This cannot be avoided. A document summarising the main theoretical results from NA1 was given out at the start of the course and remained available online throughout the course.

- There is a large variation between easy material and very hard material

This is the nature of mathematics. Some things are hard and some are easy. Also, the things one person finds hard may not be the same things that another person finds hard. I have two office hours each week. If a student is finding something particularly hard, it is recommended that s/he talks to the lecturer about it.

- One guest lecturer was quite poor and had a different style.

I apologise if this was the case. Both lecturers who covered for me during the semester when I was away have several years of teaching experience.

I provided full lectures notes to them and explained what we had done in the previous lecture. Each lecturer undoubtedly has a different style.

This difference in style cannot be avoided.

- There is more content in this course than others because of the handouts given between lectures. Too much to learn.

Students usually complain that there are not enough online resources. So, I usually attempt to give students something to read in between lectures. These can be used as revision aids when it comes to exams. However, if a student does not want to do the reading, that is up to them.

- Give the students an idea about what will be on the mini quizzes

These were simply intended as a bit of fun not as serious tests that required revision.

- You should not patronize people when they don’t know the answer.

I was not aware that I ever did this.

- Some proofs were missing from the online lecture notes.

I explained that this was to encourage students to come to lectures and actively participate in the classes (instead of just downloading notes and not attending). Any student who missed a lecture due to illness or some other valid reason could have come to see me in my office hours to obtain notes they missed.