The Undergraduate Mathematics Teaching Conference (UMTC) continues to be a distinctive part of the HE Mathematical Sciences scene in the UK, in providing an opportunity for academics in university mathematical sciences to reflect together in working groups on topics of educational interest. The conference enjoys much welcome support from the Maths, Stats and OR Network.

Last year the organising committee made some significant changes to the way the conference runs. This followed some years of declining attendance figures. The time was moved from September to just before Christmas, and the format was changed to a two-day/one-night event. Working groups worked on three different briefs, on themes as diverse as teaching logic and preparing undergraduates for the workplace. The evening Birmingham Balti was much enjoyed by all. The numbers attending showed a slight increase from the previous year, and it is to be hoped that these positive signs will continue.

The working groups are all proceeding to write up their work. It is planned that they will all make presentations at the forthcoming CETL-MSOR Conference on 10-11 September 2007, and their full reports, which form the Proceedings of the UMTC, will appear as an identified subsection of the CETL-MSOR Proceedings.

For 2007, the conference will once more be just before Christmas in Birmingham, on 17-18 December 2007. There will be the opportunity to present reports at the following CETL-MSOR conference and to publish in those Proceedings; and again groups may seek further funding to continue work, for instance, via the Maths, Stats & OR Network mini-project scheme.

Full details of this year’s Working Group briefs will be announced at the CETL-MSOR Conference in September. Current planned proposals include assessing deep understanding in statistics, the place of pedagogic research, what we mean by employer engagement, what freshers really know, and what special issues arise with adult learners. However, it is not too late to propose a brief, for instance, if there is a potential group or part-group who would like some space to work on a topic in a congenial and inspiring atmosphere, then please write to the email address below with your proposal on or before 11th September 2007.

The UMTC Committee hopes that: members of the Maths, Stats & OR community will continue to value the contribution made by UMTC to our understanding of educational issues which arise in university mathematical sciences that many will watch for detailed publicity about registration and consider participating in the work of the conference. Please email any responses and suggestions to committee@umtc.ac.uk.