

Facing the challenge of being a Maths Head of Department
Reading, 10-11 September 2019

Navigating University Senior Management

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Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor
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1993

Joined Loughborough University

2003-09

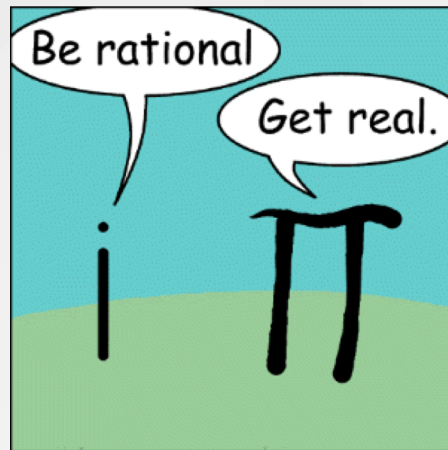
Head of Department

2009-11

Dean of Faculty of Science

2011-

Provost & Deputy Vice-Chancellor



External policy environment

- Uncertainty
- Institutional income is driven by student numbers
- Research excellence drives reputation
- New regulator (Office for Students)
- Ever more competitive
- Institutional context/strategy matters

Observation

Decisions that affect mathematics are taken by non-mathematicians

(Deans, PVCs, VCs, politicians, civil servants, business leaders, etc.)

Option 1

Ignore this, pretend life is different, build barriers around your activity

Option 2

Engage with non-mathematicians, understand your audience, provide solid evidence for your assertions

What is the senior management trying to achieve – short, medium and long term?

How can you help?

Money matters

What will your finances look like in 3-5 years and why?

It doesn't have to be a zero-sum game.

Your political capital is finite

Choose the right battles

Be very careful with the “maths is different” argument

Are you providing your students with what they need?