

University of Cambridge
Faculty of Computer Science and Technology

Chairman: Prof Ann Copestake

Secretary: Mrs Megan Sammons

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Teaching Strategy Committee held on
Wednesday 24 October 2012 at 13:00 in FW11

Present

Dr Alastair Beresford
Prof Ann Copestake
Dr John Fawcett
Ms Lise Gough
Dr Sean Holden

Prof Ian Leslie
Ms Dinah Pounds
Dr Robin Walker

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dr Graham Titmus and Mrs Megan Sammons. Ms D Pounds took the minutes.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Apologies for absence were amended to include Ms Lise Gough. The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising.

None.

4. Report from other Committees

- i. Tripos Management Committee. Professor Ian Leslie reported. The Committee recommends that the time restrictions on releasing solution notes for exam questions be lifted and that they be made freely available to anyone with Raven credentials (TMC 2012-10-15, 11i).
- ii. Advanced Taught Courses Management Committee. Dr Alastair Beresford reported. High recruitment on the MPhil in ACS has increased pressure on staff and resources. The committee suggested that any increase should be balanced with the number of Tripos students to maintain the levels of teaching commitment across the department. The Chair noted that the MPhil course overloaded the Natural Language Processing group in particular. It is hoped that introducing telephone interviews with applicants this year will improve the quality and balance of students.

5. Tripos development

The Committee discussed the options available for CST students in Part 1A. One possibility is to redistribute some Part IB courses into Part IA to provide a 75% CST option which would also address perceived overloading in IB. The Committee proposed a consultation period for further research and discussion. Concrete proposals will need to be in place by January 2013 for implementation in October 2014. **(Action AAC)**

6. Admissions

The Committee welcomed the new wording on the website admissions pages which gives more accurate information on studying Computer Science with Mathematics.

7. Supervisions

The Committee noted improvements in recruiting Part II supervisors by the Department although some colleges continue to experience a shortage.

8. Any other business

The Committee welcomed the increase in applicants to study Computer Science from 2013 but noted that the ratio of female to male applicants, particularly amongst home students has fallen. The Committee also noted that there was no evidence the standard of applicants has improved.

9. Date of next meeting

To be arranged.