

**University of Cambridge
Faculty of Computer Science & Technology**

**Minutes of the Joint Teaching Strategy committee Meeting
Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 10:00 in FW11**

Chair: Prof Mike Gordon

Secretary: Mrs Megan Sammons

John Fawcett
Director of Studies
Ms Lise Gough
Graduate Education Manager
Dr Rob Harle
Chair of DoS Forum
Prof Ian Leslie
Director of Studies

Ms Dinah Pounds
Teaching Administration Manager
Dr Bogdan Roman
Director of Studies
Mrs C Stewart
Departmental Secretary
Dr Graham Titmus
Director of Studies
Dr Chris Town
Director of Studies

Prof Ann Copestake
Chair: Athena SWAN

1. Apologies for absence

John Fawcett, Robert Harle, Ian Leslie, Bogdan Roman.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved and signed.

3. Matters arising

There was nothing to report.

4. Reports from other committees

i. Tripos Management Committee.

It is planned that during the next academic year the use of laptops and virtual machines will be implemented in the Intel Lab. With the proposed changes to Part IA in 2016, demand for practical workspace will increase. The ATCMC have agreed to the sharing of SW02, the MPhil Lab where appropriate. The Committee endorsed as a positive step the use of MOODLE as a form of teaching but agree it should be used in addition to students meeting together in practical sessions. It is hoped that MOODLE will assist with developing interaction between students and offering support from both peers as well as academic staff. It is expected that Demonstrators will also be available in practical labs to assist in cases of difficulty. The newly appointed MOODLE specialist at MISD will assist in developing this facility.

ii. ATCMC Research Skills (C00) changes to Part III

The recommendation is for Part III students to take the restructured Research Skills programme, which is no longer an assessed module. The suggestion for the restructured P III is for five taught courses to be taken along with the project which will be worth four modules. The aim is to keep Part III and the ACS in step with each

other. The proposal will be taken to the next TMC meeting before going to the Faculty Board.

5. Athena SWAN. Report from Prof Ann Copestake and discussion on the implications of the student survey.

The recent questionnaire which was aimed at all students was circulated electronically for comment. The results revealed that Women@CL works well for graduate students, but is less effective for undergraduate students. More focus on undergraduate level was required and how to provide this category with better support. The following suggestions were endorsed: female only supervisions; unconscious bias training of supervisors at supervision workshops, in particular, to ensure supervisors make eye contact with female members of a supervision group; scheduling all female students into one practical session to reduce the sense of being in a minority group and the increased likelihood of underperformance; move the Women@CL social tea to a Thursday afternoon when more undergraduates can attend and recruit a graduate student who was formerly an undergraduate at Cambridge to mentor. **Action MS/DP**

It has been observed that stereotype threat strengthens underachievement of marks, resulting in more females receiving an excess of 2:2 rather than 2:1 and general underperformance.

6. Any other business

Maths query

Dr Bogdan Roman would like this Committee and the TMC to consider whether, in the light of changes to the IA Mathematics papers, Computer Science with Mathematics continues to be a desirable option for Part IA Computer Science students. It was agreed the TMC will further investigate the maths course.

7. Date of next meeting

To be set by doodle poll for October / November 2015