# Joint Teaching Strategy Committee
## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2015 10:00 in FW11

**Chairman: Prof Peter Robinson**

Prof Alan Blackwell
*Advanced Courses Director*
John Fawcett
*Director of Studies*
Ms Lise Gough
*Graduate Administration Manager*
Dr David Greaves
*DoS and Tripos Coordinator*
Dr Rob Harle
*Director of Studies*
Dr Sean Holden (on sabbatical leave)
*Director of Studies*
Prof Ian Leslie
*Director of Studies*

**Secretary: Mrs Megan Sammons**

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

1. **Apologies for absence**
   Prof Alan Blackwell
   Dr Chris Town
   Dr John Fawcett

2. **Reports from other committees**

   i. Directors of Studies Forum. Members noted that the shared written admissions test prepared by Dr Bogdan Roman of Homerton College had proved very popular.
   ii. TMC
   **Tripos classing changes.** The Faculty board has agreed in principle to the adjustment of Computer Science's Baxter score to reflect wider practice across the University and referred the matter back to the Teaching Committee (TMC) to agree the details. This Committee was canvassed for its views and members suggested it would be appropriate to aim for the University average. It was also noted that students are encouraged by progression and that the Baxter average should be graduated. This was also considered to give more useful information to potential employers as students are employed on the basis of earlier marks rather than their final grade. Members were also in favour of awarding a distinction in the final year of the tripos to recognize outstanding achievement.
   **Release of Tripos exam solution notes.** The TMC policy that solution notes should not be released to students for two years was re-affirmed. They should be kept as a teaching resource for supervisors and Directors of Studies.
   **Tripos pre-arrival course.** The Department's concern that many students had not completed the pre-arrival course was conveyed to the Committee. It was requested that the pre-arrival course completion data be correlated with the class-list in 2016.
   **Action DP**

The forum discussion on Moodle has been very positive and a helpful learning tool and the pre-arrival course is considered sufficient pre-requisite for the new IA 75% Computer Science option.

**Tripos revision.** A tripos revision working group has been established and will meet during Michaelmas term. The nature of assessment for the new paper 3 will be further discussed by this group.

The desirability of supervisor feedback was also raised. Dr Bogdan Roman has an effective system using an anonymous google form and agreed to share this with other DoS.

iii. **ATCMC**

**Discussion on the timing of the final examiners' meeting for Part III, and the desirability of MEng candidates graduating at General Admission.** The Chair of MPhil Examiners has requested that Part III and MPhil examination meetings and the publication of results be combined. The MPhil results are currently announced later than Part III. Colleges have objected as they prefer Part III students to graduate with the other undergraduates and Part III students have also expressed a preference to graduate with their fellow undergraduates. In addition, under the new tripos regulations, Part II students will be taking some Part III modules. Their results will need to be moderated by examiners and published at the same time as the rest of the undergraduates.

The preference of the Committee was not to change procedure. If changing the Part III graduation date to that of the MPhil date is introduced, this Committee recommends that Part III students should be informed before they make the decision to commence the course.

3. **Athena Swan award.** The Committee welcomed the achievement of the Athena Swan bronze medal by the Department.

4. **Tripos applications for 2016.** Computer science applications have increased by 12%, rising from 626 applications in 2014 to 699 in 2015. Applications to the University as a whole have increased by 1.5%. Final data is not yet available but evidence suggests that most computer science applicants have opted for 75% computer science in Part IA.

5. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

6. The next meeting of this committee will be in Easter term. Date to be confirmed.