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

Chairman: Prof Peter Robinson
Secretary: Mrs Megan Sammons

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
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.