University of Cambridge Computer Laboratory
Teaching Committee

Chairman: Prof Alan Mycroft  Secretary: Mrs Jennifer Underhill

Minutes of the meeting of the Teaching Committee held on Tuesday 17
February 2009 in GC22 in the William Gates Building

Present:  Prof Alan Mycroft   Dr Alastair Beresford   Dr Simon Moore
          Prof Larry Paulson   Prof Andy Pitts   Dr Ian Wassell
          Miss Christine Northeast   Mrs Jennifer Underhill

1. Apologies for absence
An apology was received from Dr Frank Stajano, Dr Simone Teufel and Ms Lise Gough.

STANDING ITEMS

2. Sabbatical leave and substitute teaching
Nothing to report.

3. Review of staff-student consultative committee minutes
   Minutes from December 2008 meeting tabled.

3a. Security lecture notes
   It was noted in the SSCOM meeting that there was an issue with the security course
   notes. It was felt by the Teaching Committee that as the course website now outlines
   the sections in the book that are relevant to each lecture there is no need for any
   further action.

3b. O-notation
   It was noted in the SSCOM meeting that ML students found O-notation confusing, it
   was requested that O-notation either be removed or introduced more thoroughly. It
   was suggested by the Teaching Committee that supervisors could cover this if students
   were having difficulties.

3c. Turing Machines
   Members of the SSCOM reported that Part IB students requested more cover for
   Turing machines. AMP noted this request and will try to provide coverage.

3d. Operating Systems lecture notes
   It was noted in the SSCOM meeting that students felt that the Operating Systems notes
   did not go into enough detail. The Teaching Committee observed that the lecture notes
   have been unchanged for the last five years and are surprised that this has only become
   a problem this year.

3e. Paper feedback
   It was noted in the SSCOM meeting that many students did not use the electronic
   feedback system. LCP reported to the Teaching Committee that after investigating into
   an automatic paper feedback system he had found a company willing to provide such
   services for £5000, plus software and training costs. It was felt that at present investing
   in such a system would be unfeasible due to the cost.
4. Revision of the Tripos.
It was agreed that the Chairman would produce a draft timetable as soon as possible.

   ACTION: AM

5. Liaison with the MPhil in Advanced Computer Science
Nothing to report.

6. Liaison with the MPhil in CSTIT
Nothing to report.

7. Proposals for new courses, significant changes to courses, and removal of courses
Nothing to report.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

8. Future of teaching in Cockcroft 4
This had previously been discussed (Minutes of 16th December 2008, item 8a) but the Teaching Committee were invited to revisit it due to the £50,000 per annum cost. AMP (Acting Head of Department) stated that no action will be taken for 2009/10, however, the Teaching Committee would like to be kept informed of any developments.

9. Discussion of CS stream of NST (CST paper 1)
   “Thoughts on the NST Paper 1 Stream” tabled.
The Teaching Committee are grateful for RKH’s insightful comments, however the current system has not been running for long enough for any revisions to be considered. The Teaching Committee plan to revisit this issue in the September meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

10. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting
The minutes were agreed and signed.

11. Any matters arising not already dealt with
11a. Negative Marking
The Teaching Committee would like to have a discussion in the DoS committee meeting in regards to whether negative marking is psychologically appropriate.

12 Dates of future meetings
Mon 16 March at 2:15pm in GC22
Mon 20 April at 2:15pm in GC22
Tue 19 May at 2:15pm in GC22
Tue 16 June at 2:15 in GS15