UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chairman: Dr R K Harle   Secretary: Mrs M A Sammons

The Directors of Studies Forum held on Tuesday 30 June 2015 at 10:00 in FW11 in the
William Gates Building

Present

Prof J M Bacon (JE)   Prof S W Moore (TH)
Dr A R Beresford (ROB)   Dr R D Mullins (JN,PET)
Dr A F Blackwell (D)   Prof L C Paulson
Dr D Chisnall (MUR)   Ms D E Pounds (Teaching Admin Mgr)
Ms Jo Farmer-Eynon (Observer)   Dr A C Rice (Q)
Dr J K Fawcett (CHU)   Dr A B Roman (HO)
DR R J Gibbens (Chair Examinations)   Mrs M A Sammons (Teaching Admin Asst)
Dr D J Greaves (CC)   Dr F M Stajano (T)
DR T G Griffin (K)   Mrs C Stewart (Departmental Secretary)
Mr C K Hadley (PEM)   Dr S Taraskin(CTH)
Dr S B Holden (T)   Dr G Titmus (CAI)
Prof I M Leslie (CHR)   Dr C P Town (W)
Prof C Mascolo (JE)   DR R R Watts (SEL)
Dr K Moody

1.   **Apologies for absence**
        Dr P J Buttery (HH), Dr J M Hayman (EMM), Dr A C Norman (T), Dr B G Roberts
        (SID), Prof P Robinson (CAI).

2.   **Minutes of the previous meeting**
        The minutes were agreed and signed.

3.   **Matters arising**
        Changes to Part IA. Discussion on how to assess student background and suitability
        to take the new Paper 3 in Part IA are ongoing.

4.   **Notification of any other business**
        Athena SWAN

        Standing Items

5.   **Examination synopsis**
        The Examiners reported on this year's examinations. Dr Rice requested that the IA
        markbook be circulated in Excel as are Parts IB and II mark books.
        The examiners confirmed that the senior tutors were notified of any unclassed
        students before publication of the class list.

6.   **Review of Examinations**
        CKH reported a 22% in firsts, marginally down on last year and in all years, there
        was a larger proportion of 2:1s.

Natural Science students did not perform well in CS Paper 1 and eight were in the lower quartile. It was agreed that Natural Science students be advised that CST Paper 1 is not an easy option.

A level results will be out mid-August, around 14th and the summer pool the following week.
Members were reminded that the previous two years solution notes should not be viewable to students. Steps are being taken to make them more secure. ARB suggested releasing the questions and solutions on the last day of lectures, in Easter term.The proposal to be fed back to the TMC for approval. **Action DP**

7. **Tripos changes for 2015-16**

IA students will be asked to take a pre-arrival course as circulated. Moodle, the virtual programming system is to be introduced and it is anticipated that most practical work will be done independently via an online testing session. Thursday Intel Lab practicals will be run as a drop in session with demonstrators on hand to give assistance. Demonstrators will also monitor online activity. Every student will have to take an online test and 50% to be monitored randomly to discourage plagiarism. DoS will be informed as to who will be called in for ticking.
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Ticks will be set on a Friday for completion for the following Friday and DoS should check the list weekly.
The total number of ticks remains unchanged but the ratio of ML, Java and Algorithms has changed as set out in the Head of Department's notice.
The requirements for IA CST students is as follows:
ML Practicals -   5 Exercises
Hardware Laboratory - 7 Experiments
Java Practicals - 5 Exercises
Algorithms Practicals – 3 Exercises

The requirements for NST and PBS students 'borrowing' CST Paper 1 remains unchanged as follows:
ML Practicals -   4 Exercises
Java Practicals - 5 Exercises
Algorithms Practicals – 1 Exercise

The pre-arrival course is short and students may take it in their vacation or in the first week of term.
Computer Fundamentals will also still be available for students to take.
Minor changes to the courses for 2015-16
IB C and C++ will remain in Michaelmas and not be carried over into Lent.
P II Principles of Communications and Artificial Intelligence II will resume. PoC will begin at 09:00 in Michaelmas.
P II Two new lectures to be given by MGK covering MatLab and LaTeX. Both are non-examinable,
P II Types will resume with AMP during Michaelmas also at 09:00 and have 12 lectures.
P II Hoare Logic and Model Checking are now a combined course lasting 12 lectures
P II Advanced Graphics will resume as a 16 lecture course with NAD and AB.
The exam structure has been agreed and will be available earlier than last year to students.
The lecturer for IA Software and Interface Design was concerned at some student feedback to the course. Students had suggested having practicals instead of supervisions. DoS expressed satisfaction with the course as it is and no changes are planned.

8. **Tripos changes for 2016-17**
   The new scheme planned for taking papers; is Paper 3 may be taken in either IA or IB and Paper 7 may be taken in IB or P II. Refer to TMC notes.
   If reading Paper 3 in IA, it was agreed that students must have the relevant pre-requisites before selecting this option.

9. **Computer Science with Maths option**
   A quick straw poll indicated that DoS did not support the removal of the CS with Maths option in IA.

10. **Shared written test for admissions**
    Dr Bogdan Roman presented his shared written test showing that it allows for flexibility for candidates to select to their strengths. Each college would manage their own test and administrate marking. A demonstration of the test structure advised it would be in 2 sections. Section 1 is easier than Section 2. There would be a good balance of maths, algorithms and programming. A suggested timing of 90 minutes of test with 10 minutes reading time. The test has been trialled at Queens' and Churchill and a second trial was held at the Computer Lab using 45 participants.
    Concerns raised were; inconsistencies between colleges when there were "half correct" answers and potential issues of leaking of questions and continuity. A perceived advantage is that it can be taken by overseas students. ABR will put material on a webpage. ABR was thanked for the enormous amount of work he had contributed in researching this option.

11. **Part II specialisation**
    With a lack of choice this year due to sabbaticals, students attended more lectures this year, possibly to optimise on selection.
    It was agreed that DoS should encourage all students to attend all lectures in the beginning, before making a choice.

12. **Any other business**
    Athena SWAN survey results
    DoS were to be made aware of the recent Athena SWAN survey that the Lab sent out to all students.

13. **Date of next meeting**
    The next meeting will be advised shortly, the date of Thursday 7 January 2016 is likely.