University of Cambridge
Faculty of Computer Science and Technology

Chairman: Prof Ann Copestake   Secretary: Mrs Megan Sammons

Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Teaching Strategy Committee held on Tuesday 4 March 2014 at 10:00 in FW11

Present

Dr Alastair Beresford	Mrs Megan Sammons
Prof Ann Copestake	Mrs Caroline Stewart
Dr David Greaves	Dr Graham Titmus
Dr John Fawcett	Dr Chris Town
Ms Dinah Pounds	Dr Robin Walker

1.   Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Dr Sean Holden and Ms Lise Gough

2.   Minutes of the previous meeting

The decision has been made not to interview all Part III applicants as this is not deemed to be practical and will not address the problem of whether to admit a student who narrowly misses the admission criteria. The students will instead complete a questionnaire. The Committee are concerned to ensure that students are made aware of the nature of the course and in particular, the research element.

3.   Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

4.   Report from other Committees

Tripos Management Committee.

I.   Part IA changes.

Members reported that the consolidation of courses in Part IA this year has been very successful and widely welcomed by colleges. It is anticipated that by 2017, Computer Science will be studied full time by first year students. There will be four papers to be controlled by the Lab. The Tripos Management Committee is in the process of drawing up new plans to include Joint Electronics and Computing in response to input from local industry. It is proposed that Papers 1 and 2 remain the same. Additional new material will be presented in a Paper 3 in two streams: Electronics and Cognitive and Social Systems. 25% of the Paper 3 will have material from the IB course. The hope is that this will improve the gender balance of our students.

II.   Planned changes to Part IB for next year

The Committee expressed the view that the new streams of courses introduced in Part IA should continue to be offered in Part IB. There is the potential for a cognitive strand in Part IB but this must be core Computer Science. At present, a radical change to IB is not planned but it was agreed to decide upon a formal framework for recommended practical work. Various options for continued links with NST were discussed.

5.   Report on progress of departmental Athena SWAN application
The Faculty is currently hoping to apply for a bronze award. At present the procedure is intended more for staff than students. The University is presently involved with unconscious bias training. The Faculty is represented by Dr Jonathan Hayman with an aim to introduce the Lab's own in-house training for any staff, initially to be geared at the interviewing of undergraduate and ACS students. The Committee discussed the possibility of using female staff at the Oxbridge conferences to encourage female applicants. Numbers of female home students applying is particularly poor. It was agreed that a number of DoS may not have experience of interviewing female candidates. Checking the profile of students who have dropped out may also be useful.

7.   Any other business

8.   Date of next meeting
To be advised by doodle poll