

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**Chairman: Dr David Greaves**

**Secretary: Ms D. E. Pounds**

Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Tripos Management Committee  
held on Monday 28 April 2014 at 14:15 in SW00

**Present**

Prof Ann Copestake (*Deputy Head of Department*)  
Dr Richard Gibbens (*Representative on Mathematics Faculty Board*)  
Dr David Greaves (*Chairman*)  
Dr Robert Harle (*Parts IA and IB Course Director and Chair of SSCoF*)

Dr Sean Holden (*Part II and Supervisions co-ordinator*)  
Prof Ian Leslie  
Ms Dinah Pounds (*Secretary*)  
Prof Peter Robinson (*Exchange Programme Organiser*)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Dr Simone Teufel (*representative from the ATCMC*)

**2. Sabbatical and other leave**

None requested.

**3. Notification of any other business**

- i. Additional course change requests. (Item 9)
- ii. Moodle
- iii. Cover for Dr Holden during sabbatical leave for the academic year 2014-15.

**MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**4. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes were approved and signed.

**5. Matters arising**

The Committee agreed a recommendation to Faculty Board that solution notes to Tripos exam questions be held back for two years to provide unpublished supervision material. New course convenors should continue to provide example sheets and sample exam material. **Action DP/AAC**

**REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

**6. The minutes from the Staff-student Consultative Forum were tabled.**

Dr Harle confirmed that the minor issues raised have been addressed. Students have highlighted that the new Part IA, Paper 1 Algorithms course requires some knowledge of material presented in Paper 2 Discrete Maths which is not offered to Natural Scientists. This is being addressed by the lecturers.

**7. Correspondence**

- i. Prof Larry Paulson (paper 2014-04-28b). The Committee endorsed the view expressed by Prof Paulson and agreed that, in future, Part II dissertation

- oversight will be undertaken by an independent overseer who should offer an objective view of a student's progress to their Director of Studies. **Action DP**
- ii. Prof Alan Mycroft (2014-04-28c). The Committee welcomed Prof Mycroft's support but felt that such major changes to Part IA and the introduction of a new paper needed to be made a compulsory part of the tripos. The University's procedure for the introduction of new courses precludes an earlier introduction.
  - iii. Comments arising from the structured Wednesday meeting of 12 March 2014 on proposals for the revision of Part IA . (2014-04-28d) To be discussed under item 8.
  - iv. Proposals to revise existing courses for the forthcoming academic year. (2014-04-28e) To be discussed under item 9.

## EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

- 8. Revision of Part IA.** Professor Leslie will oversee the process. Proposals for a new Paper will be presented to the University by January 2015. An outline will be taken forward to Faculty board on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014 and the course will be designed in parallel. **Action DJG/IML.**

The Committee considered the plans for revision in the light of feedback from the Department and the content of the new Computer Science A level syllabuses.

Working parties will be set up to consider the following areas:

- i. The Cognitive stream. **Action AAC**
- ii. Electronics stream. **Action DJG**
- iii. Modular structure. **Action DJG**
- iv. Mathematical elements. **Action RJG**

Appropriate staff will be approached to join the working parties and an invitation sent to the wider departmental staff should they be interested. **Action DP**

- 9. Proposals to revise existing courses for the forthcoming academic year. (2014-04-28e)**
- i. **Part IA:** Discrete Maths will now be split between Michaelmas and Lent term. The course has proved to be over-ambitious and material will need to be reduced next year with a maximum of 8 supervisions required for the whole course. Timetable constraints in IA precludes extending the number of lectures. **Action MPF/AMP.**
  - ii. **Part IB:** Dr Gibbens reported on the revisions of the Mathematical Methods for Computer Science course which will now contain more probability. The course should be more accessible to students and will include examples, use-cases and practical application at the end of the course. The advantages and disadvantages of introducing use-cases and context before theory were discussed and whether this gives an incentive to learn theory to those students who struggle with Maths.  
The Committee requested clarification from the lecturers with regard to proposals for the Security courses.  
**Action DJG.**  
Professor Robinson will revise the Graphics course within the boundaries of 16 lectures but may consider increasing the course to 24 lectures once the revision of Part IA is complete.
  - iii. **Part II:** the Committee welcomed the new Advanced and Parallel Algorithms course presented by Dr Sauerwald. The Chair felt there is a need to link this course with others in this field to ensure an appropriate coverage of material and some modification may be required. A recommendation was made to

extend this course to 12 lectures. **The Chair will liaise with involved lecturers.**

- iv. **Additional requests.** Professor Fiore has requested not to give Concepts in Programming Languages due to workload. Alternative arrangements are being explored. **Action DJG**

Professor Pitts has requested an alternative lecturer for Part II Types whilst he is involved in establishing Category Theory within the ACS course. The Committee confirmed the policy that only UTOs should deliver Tripos courses. Senior Research Associates may be used in exceptional circumstances such as to cover sabbatical or other leave. As an alternative, the Committee suggested that the Part II Types course which is in need of revision should not run next year whilst changes are implemented. Dr S. Moore has requested that Dr T. Jones give 4 lectures as part of IB Computer design. The Committee agreed and welcomed his input.

- 10. Progress on the framework for Part IB practicals.** No concrete proposals have as yet been received. The lecturers in question would like more information on how the automated testing system (Otter) works and a demonstration from Drs Rice and Beresford will be solicited. **Action DP**

#### **11. Any other business**

- i. The Committee discussed the possible use of Moodle and requested further information on its use. **Action RKH**
- ii. The Committee considered whether cover was needed for Dr Sean Holden during sabbatical leave. It was agreed that there should be an academic member of staff to oversee Part II but that only one was needed and the role of Part II and Supervisions co-ordinator would be covered by the Part II project coordinator, currently Dr David Greaves.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 16 June 2014 at 14:15 in GC15