

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chairman: Dr David Greaves

Secretary: Ms D. E. Pounds

Minutes of the meeting of the Tripos Management Committee
held on Monday 27 April 2015 at 13:30 in GS15

Present

Dr Richard Gibbens (*Representative on
Mathematics Faculty Board*)

Prof Mike Gordon (*Deputy Head of
Department*)

Dr David Greaves (*Chairman*)

Dr Robert Harle (*Part IA coordinator*)

Dr Sean Holden (*Part II and supervisions
coordinator*)

Dr Mateja Jamnik

Prof Ian Leslie

Dinah Pounds (*Secretary*)

Prof Peter Robinson (*Exchange
Programme Organiser*)

Megan Sammons (*Student Administrator*)

Dr Simone Teufel

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Sabbatical and other leave

None

3. Notification of any other business

- i. Mike Gordon on an offer from a guest lecturer.
- ii. Ian Leslie reported on the final regulation changes for the revised tripos.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved and signed.

5. Matters arising

The draft wording for the revised online prospectus was approved. The Committee agreed to update our own web pages to announce the new structures once the changes were reflected in the university online prospectus.

6. Reports from other committees

The Committee received the General Board's Education Committee- Summary Report for the Annual Quality Updates for 2013-14.

7. Correspondence

The Committee has requested access to Part IA and IB supervisors for the purpose of gaining feedback on courses. It is hoped that the information will assist the forthcoming revision of the Tripos. The CamCours Management Committee has been approached regarding access to supervisors but as yet no response has been received.

- i. **Timetable 2015-16.** The proposal to introduce a Latex and Matlab two lecture course for Part II to replace the last two lectures of IB Unix tools was approved. The lecturer should mention the vision and machine-learning toolboxes to avoid overlap with other courses.
- ii. The Committee approved the introduction of a pre-arrival online course in place of Computer Fundamentals. This will be introduced for the academic year 2015-16. In response to student feedback this will also include some ML

and BASH. It is proposed to use MOODLE which can now facilitate a Virtual Programming Lab.

- iii. Dr Teufel's request to be relieved from lecturing Part II Information Retrieval in 2016 in order to dedicate more time to preparing the new Part IA applied machine learning courses was approved subject to a substitute lecturer being appointed. The RA who covered the course this academic year will be approached. **Action DP. Afternote: Dr Ronan Cummins has agreed to cover the course for 2015-16.**

It was agreed Part II Mobile and Sensor Systems will not run for 2015-16 as Part II has a sufficient number of courses available.

- iv. The Committee approved the request for Dr Stephen Cummins to assist with Java and Further Java ticking during sabbatical leave.
- v. The Committee welcomed a proposal to use MOODLE to facilitate ML ticking. This will provide an online chat room where students can exchange information and where paid demonstrators can offer official advice within a guaranteed response time. The system can be maintained by UCS and will enable IA lecturers to match lectures with practicals. Contact will be established with the ML course convenor, the C and C++ lecturer and the relevant member of staff at the UCS with a view to having the system in place for Michaelmas term 2015 and training for lecturers provided. A paper will be presented to the Committee at the next meeting. **Action RKH**

8. Content and examination of the new paper 3.

- i. The proposed assessment and delivery of paper 3 is to be discussed further. It is suggested that the assessment should match the current papers one and two but with some flexibility. The possibility of an intensive practical course on programming held at the start of Michaelmas term was also discussed.
- ii. The focus of the written syllabus to be developed by Dr Teufel will be on applied machine learning.

9. Focus group report. The annual student focus group was held at the start of Easter term. Students are generally very positive about their courses and made some helpful suggestions for improvements. These include being able to test their code and interacting more with other students, particularly helpful to students in colleges where computer science numbers are low, and which can be incorporated into the revised tripos use of MOODLE.

10. Any other business

- i. The Committee appreciated the offer for a series of lectures on the historical perspective of Computer Science but regretfully, could not envisage it fitting into the present tripos structure.
- ii. The final regulations for the revised tripos were approved and will be presented to the Faculty Board for agreement.

11. Date of next meeting

15 June 2015