

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Chairman: Dr David Greaves

Secretary: Ms Dinah Pounds

Minutes of the meeting of the Tripos Management Committee
held on Monday 16 November 2015 at 13:30 in GC22

Members

Dr Richard Gibbens (Representative on
Mathematics Faculty Board
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 and Deputy HoD*)
Megan Sammons (*Student Administrator*)
Dr Simone Teufel

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Notification of any other business

None

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising

Solution notes for the past 2 years are now clearly marked in red with instructions not to allow students access. The Committee's policy is also clearly stated on the webpage. Action on the 2014 National Student Survey is deferred until the next meeting. **Action DJG**

5. Reports from other committees

- i. Joint teaching strategy committee meeting 2015-11-16a.
- ii. Staff-student consultative forum 2015-11-16b

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

6. Request for sabbatical leave from Prof Alan Mycroft for 2016-7 (possibly for just Michaelmas and Lent terms). The tripos teaching commitment is Part IB Concepts in Programming Languages (Easter term), and Part II, Hoare Logic and Model Checking (MT) and Optimising Compilers.

Request for sabbatical leave from Prof Anuj Dawar for Michaelmas term 2016.

The teaching commitment affected is Part II Quantum Computing.

The Committee confirmed that, in response to student feedback, Part II courses will now still run during the lecturer's absence wherever possible and the lecturers are asked to find a replacement lecturer. Sabbatical leave was approved subject to this.

7. Report from the Tripos revision working group (DJG)

Dr Greaves confirmed that 2 out of 4 scheduled meetings have taken place and steady progress has been achieved. We are agreed that students must prove their preparedness for the full computer science option by completing the online pre-arrival course before the course starts. We have also agreed that, whilst the principle of broadening programming skills underpins the new

paper 3 courses, some Probability will be necessary to give a theoretical basis. This will, in turn, require a rescheduling of IB Mathematical Methods for Computer Science. IB Mathematical Methods courses will be timed to ensure that a logical sequence is achieved for IB students but without their being disrupted by group project work.

- 8. Proposed revision to Artificial Intelligence.** Dr Holden outlined the rationale behind rewriting these courses which was prompted by the discussion in the tripos revision strategy meeting held in Easter term 2015 and also responds to the high level of interest expressed in a specialised Part II Machine Learning course. The aim of the Part IB course will be to provide a general AI course on which the students can proceed to the revised Part II course which will be renamed "Bayesian Inference and Machine Learning". The Committee were broadly in agreement with the proposed changes and there was also further discussion as to how this will dovetail with the revised paper 3 courses. The discussion will be continued at the next tripos revision meeting and reported at the meeting of this committee in January 2016.
- 9. IA pre-arrival programming skills survey analysis.** Analysis of the survey has suggested that there is a discrepancy between what the students think they know and reality. The Committee would like further analysis to ascertain who did and who did not have programming experience. It was agreed to run the survey again next year, separating NST from CST results and asking how many hours programming experience students had. Students will be given feedback on the results via SSCoF.
Action DP/RKH
- 10. Marking and classing proposal.** The Faculty Board of Computer Science and Technology has asked the Tripos Management Committee to consider revisions to its classing procedures and present a firm proposal to the next meeting of the Faculty Board on Monday 1 December 2015. The Committee agreed with the assumption that we believe our students to be of or above the same standard as the University average and merited being classed as such. Adjusting our classing boundaries to produce a Tompkins score close to the University average will achieve this. There was also agreement that steady progression through the three years of the tripos was desirable and this model will be adopted (see paper 2015-11-16e). IA classing should be further discussed with NST. The introduction of a mark of distinction has been approved by the General Board on the following basis: 'We regularly have a small group of outstanding students at the top of our classlist in Part II and we would like their achievements to be recognized. 'The proportion of students awarded a distinction is expected to average 3% and should not normally exceed 5% of the cohort.' The sentence 'For special excellence a mark of distinction may be awarded in Part II.' will be added to regulation 7 in Statutes and ordinances and appear in the Reporter on 18 November 2015.

The Marking and Classing document will now be updated to give detailed guidance to examiners and will be presented to the next meeting of the Faculty Board on Monday 1 December 2015. **Action DJG/PR**
- 11. Consultation on student workload.** The Committee agreed responses which will be forwarded to the Faculty Board. The views of Directors of Studies will be canvassed for item B3 of the questionnaire. **Action DJG/RKH**
- 12. Consultation on publication of classlists.** It was the view of this Committee that the present system was satisfactory and gives students the option not to have their results listed publically. This view will be forwarded to the Faculty Board. **Action DP**

13. Any other business. The Committee confirmed we will undertake a new admissions video ready for next year. Some professional companies will be approached and Sean Holden and Mateja Jamnik agreed to present the video. Student Admin will transcribe the text of the current video as a basis of the new text. **Action DP**

14. Date of next meeting – 18 January 2016