

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 18 January 2016 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

Dr Sean Holden
Prof Ian Leslie

2. Notification of any other business

Review of exchange programmes.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved and signed.

4. Matters arising

The students have requested more opportunities to make presentations via the National Student Survey. The Committee suggest that supervisors give them an opportunity to do this by presenting the work they have done on their starred ticks. Information will be added to the supervisors' pages of the website and Directors of Studies informed. **Action RKH**

5. Reports from other committees

- i. Staff-student consultative forum 2016-01-18a.
Students have requested that the clocks in the lecture theatres be synchronised and lecturers are requested not to overrun at the end of lectures. **Action DP**
- ii. Director of Studies forum 2016-01-18b. The Committee noted that Computer Science with Mathematics remains a popular choice. It was also reaffirmed that Directors of Studies should check that students have passed the pre-arrival course before allowing them to take the 75% computer science option. The probability tick will be assigned in the pre-arrival course but will not need to be completed until the start of Lent term. It will not be an examinable tick but will form part of the Machine learning and real world data course exam material.

EXCEPTIONAL ITEMS

6. Sabbatical leave

- i. A request for unpaid leave for 2 years by Anil Madhavapeddy for 2016-8 has been agreed by the Faculty Board. Cover will be needed for the Part IB

Programming in C and C++ course. The Committee consider that it might be preferable to find a replacement lecturer. It is planned that this course will become an online course along the lines of Prolog and further Java.

Afternote: Anil has proposed that Dr Sivaramakrishnan Krishnamoorthy Chandrasekaran who is a Research fellow in the Lab to cover the course in his absence. **Action DJG**

- ii. Request for sabbatical leave from Dr Richard Gibbens for three terms for the calendar year 2017 Lent 2016/17, Easter 2016/17 and Michaelmas 2017/18 was approved. Cover will be needed for Part IB Mathematical methods for computer science for marking the scripts in June 2017 and for lecturing in Michaelmas term 2017. Dr Gibbens' input will be sought as to the necessary revisions to the course in the light of the new tripos before he leaves for sabbatical. Professor Ian Leslie has agreed to cover Part II Computer systems modelling.
- iii. Prof Anuj Dawar proposes Maris Ozols (<http://home.lu.lv/~sd20008/>), a postdoc with the Centre for Quantum Information and Foundations at DAMTP to give the lectures for Quantum Computing in MT 2016/17. Prof Dawar will still cover setting and marking the related examination question. Dr Ozols holds a Leverhulme early career fellowship. He was awarded his PhD entitled "Quantum algorithms for searching, resampling, and hidden shift problems" by the University of Waterloo, Canada. The Committee were happy to accept him as a replacement lecturer.
- iv. Prof A Mycroft proposes taking only Michaelmas and Lent terms in 2016/17. He will cover IB Concepts in programming languages, lectures and exam questions. Dominic Orchard will cover Optimising Compilers. Hoare logic and Model Checking is still to be resolved. The Committee await the appointment to a new lectureship before deciding on cover for this course.

7. Teaching arrangements for 2016-17

- i. Prof Ann Copestake requests that Dr Katia Shutova be given responsibility for the Part II NLP for a second year to enable Prof Copestake to assist in the delivery of the new Paper 3 Machine learning and real world phenomena course. The Committee would like Prof Copestake to provide more information as to what is involved. The intention is to consider this course in conjunction with Information Retrieval which is due for rotation and see if a UTO is available. There was some concern expressed about the ongoing costs to the department when we ask RAs to take courses. The Committee's decision is deferred pending further discussion.
- ii. Dr Simone Teufel would like to request that we employ a full-time Java programmer for 4 months to prepare demonstration code, visualisation and communication to support the forthcoming MLRP practical course for 16/17. We will also need Demonstrator time of 1:10 student ratio for all practicals, and possible additional ticking time. The Committee agreed that some assistance should be offered where new courses are needed for 2016-17 and where the practicals are outside the research area of the courses convener. This applies to Machine learning and Databases. Details of what support can be offered will be considered. Dr Teufel was requested to provide details of the costs. **Action DJG, PR.**

- iii. From the academic year 2016/17 on, Dr Thomas Sauerwald will be dedicating 75% of his time to a five year research project. As a result of this, the senior management team have confirmed that his teaching load should be reduced considerably during that period. They recommended he no longer teach the IA Algorithms course and ask the TMC committee to make appropriate arrangements. The Committee would like a new lecturer to take over Dr Sauerwald's part of the course. The Chairman will consider possible lecturers.
Action DJG

8. **Recommendation for an additional Examiner to be appointed for this year's exams for Mathematics in the Natural Sciences.** The Examiners for NST Mathematics IA and IB have made a recommendation to the Faculty Board of Mathematics in November to introduce an additional Examiner from the Computer Laboratory, which last year's Examiners see as appropriate given the large number of CST candidates. The Committee agreed that the Department does not have anyone available with the appropriate expertise to undertake this role.
Afternote: Prof Andy Hopper has been consulted and supports this view. In response, the Mathematics Faculty would like us to consider the proposal again for next year.
9. **Report from the Tripos revision working group (DJG).** The group has received several suggestions from course convenors as to how IB course content can be reduced. Detailed structure and syllabuses for the new paper 3 will be requested for the next meeting. A draft for the new paper 7 will be prepared and a revision working party meeting convened in mid-February. **Action DP/DJG**
10. **Report on the tripos course surveys for Michaelmas term 2015.** It was agreed that, in future, formal feedback will be given to this committee at the start of each term. The wording on the survey form will be changed to reflect this. In response to feedback from Michaelmas, Part II Bioinformatics slides will be reordered and a new textbook made available.
11. **Any other business.** Professor Peter Robinson will be attending a University-wide review of exchange programmes and sought the Committees views. Current arrangements allow students to study at MIT for Part II on the condition they have met the conditions to study for Part III on their return. This reduces enormously the number of students who can take up the scheme. The Committee agreed that it was preferable for students to first complete their BA here and then progress into a Masters programme at MIT. It was also noted that students from MIT who study Part IB here do not often achieve very highly.
12. **Date of next meeting – 22 February 2016**