



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
Computer Laboratory

Faculty of Computer Science & Technology
Tripos Management Committee

Chairman: Dr David Greaves

Secretary: Ms Dinah Pounds

Minutes of the Tripos Management Committee
held on Monday 26 February 2018 at 14.15 in GC22

Members

Prof Alan Blackwell (*Deputy HoD*)
Dr David Greaves (*Chairman*)
Dr Hatice Gunes
Dr Robert Harle (*Part IA coordinator*)
Dr Mateja Jamnik

Dr Sean Holden (*Part II and supervisions coordinator*)
Dinah Pounds (*Secretary*)
Megan Sammons (*Student Administrator*)
Dr Damon Wischik

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr Mateja Jamnik
Dr Damon Wischik
Dr Sean Holden

2. Notification of any other business

- i. Response to the current strike action.
- ii. Review of central University rooms
- iii. Course survey feedback

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Matters arising.

The library archive of Part II projects is now available to students. The staff handbook will be updated with advice on best practice for lecture notes, supervision material and examples sheets. Feedback from supervisors will be sought and given to lecturers.

5. Correspondence.

Part IA student rep (item 10ii)
Part IB students (item 8ii)

6. Reports from other committees: SSCoF

- i. IA Maths for Natural Scientists course. The Committee considered a petition from IA students expressing dissatisfaction with the course which forms 25% of their studies. Students are concerned that the course is geared too much towards physicists and request the Department take the course over. The Committee ask the Faculty Board to thank the students on its behalf and expressed agreement with the sentiments expressed by the students. A timetable will be set to review the course. The Committee felt strongly that calculus should still be taught to our

- students but made more relevant. This would make the course of more use to later CST courses such as Computer Vision. The Committee are aware that this Department has limited teaching capacity and will consider the possibility of aligning more closely to Engineering by using their material or of a partial takeover of the NST paper following on from Scientific Computing. The Chair advised that the economic loss to the Department of leaving NST Maths was not significant. DJW will be asked to investigate possible options. **Action DJW**
- ii. **Course publicity.** Students request for more provision for those without programming skills. The Committee felt that there is now sufficient provision for students available from other sources and agreed that the Pre-arrival course was already involved enough and should only provide a catch-up on school material. Any further support for incoming students should be provided by colleges. The Committee will prepare a statement of what programming skills we expect students to have achieved. It was felt reasonable to expect them to be up to GCSE level. The GCSE requirements will be circulated. **Action RKH**

7. Requests for sabbatical leave.

Prof R. Anderson requests leave for the calendar year 2019. Cover will be required for IA Software and Security Engineering in Easter term and Economics, Law and Ethics the following Michaelmas term. The Committee were unable to confirm teaching cover for these courses and defer endorsement until the next meeting.

8. Part II papers and units.

- i. **Student response.** No courses were over-subscribed. Three courses have attracted fewer than 5 students but it was felt these courses should still run as students were not warned they might not. Numbers may be increased by opening courses to ACS/Part III students and all Part II students will be able to attend lectures.
- ii. **Part IB 50% concerns.** The Committee acknowledged that the new Paper 7 gives a more limited choice than old regs. Paper 7 and that some 50% students are disappointed at not being able to study Part II NLP and DSP.

We suggest the following to address student concerns:

We will ensure that there are no timetable clashes so that all Part II students can attend NLP and DSP lectures should they wish to.

There is now NLP content in the new Paper 3 MLRWD course and in the new Easter term Paper 7 course 'Formal Models of Language'.

To extend options in Paper 7, next year we propose to increase Economics, Law and Ethics to 2 questions. (This is also to fulfil accreditation requirements). There will also be 2 Formal Models of Language questions and practicals.

In addition, we are investigating the possibility of an exam question in Paper 7 on DSP. This will only be for the next 2 years to cover the period when students may not have been aware of the new structure of Part II. A meeting to disseminate the information will be arranged with the student reps.

Action DP

9. **Course publicity.** In the light of the forthcoming changes to the Tripos, the Committee agreed to commission market research to improve the publicity for the course. The newly appointed outreach officer for the School of Technology will be approached for assistance. **Action DP**

10. NST borrowing of Paper 1. The Committee agreed to set a timetable to end the borrowing of Paper 1 by NST and to revise Paper 1 to better serve CST IA students. The proposal will be referred to Faculty Board for approval.

11. Courses 2018-19. Principles of Communications will reduce from 24 lectures to 16 with 2 exam questions, one in each of Paper 8 and 9. The Committee were generally content with the new syllabus but request information on the rationale for removing 'data centres' from the syllabus. **Action DP**

12. Any other business

- i. Response to the current strike action. The Chair will liaise with the Examiners and Faculty Board to consider if any adjustment is needed to examination material to ensure fairness. **Action DJG**
- ii. Review of central University rooms. An Education Space review is ongoing to review provision in the University. The amount of lecture space provided centrally is likely to be reduced.
- iii. **Course survey feedback.** Minor actions will be taken on the following:
IA Introduction to Graphics syllabus to be reviewed; IB Further Graphics requires an exercise sheet; IB Computer Design- the students request less history and more application; IB C course needs improving; The sign-up for ECAD was considered unsatisfactory; IB Data Science was felt to have too much material and not enough background. **Action DJG**

Date of next meeting – 14 May 2018