



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Computer Laboratory

Faculty of Computer Science & Technology  
Tripos Management Committee

Chairman: Dr David Greaves

Secretary: Ms Dinah Pounds

Minutes of the meeting of the Tripos Management Committee  
held on Monday 14 May 2018 at 13.30 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 Tim Jones (*incoming Chair*)

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

**1. Apologies for Absence**

Mateja Jamnik

**2. Notification of any other business**

- i. Release of exam solution notes in 2018
- ii. Response to NST Maths
- iii. Part II Machine Learning and Bayesian Inferences overlap with Part III.

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

The minutes were approved.

**4. Matters arising.**

- i. Faculty Board has approved the removal of the 50% option and the decision to end NST borrowing of CST Paper 1. This will now be sent to the General Board on 13 June 2018 for approval. Maths have acknowledged the proposed changes.
- ii. Strike cover. The Committee confirmed the message given to students and believe they have all the materials they need for their exams.
- iii. Improving the admissions pages of the website are a priority in order to promote the different pathways now available through the tripos now the 50% option has been removed from IA. **Action DJG**

**5. Correspondence.**

- i. Report on the Paper 7 meeting with Part IB students. AFB (2018-05-14a). The Committee representatives welcomed the students' effort in consultation and summarising findings. The students have expressed themselves satisfied with the measures in place to address their concerns regarding NLP content in courses. We hope to revise the content of Paper 7 to contain two questions on Formal Models of Languages and two on Economics, Law and Ethics and all Part II courses will be timetabled such that all students may attend lectures.

- ii. Shadowing scheme for post docs and UTOs to facilitate opportunities as a guest lecturer on Tripos courses. (2018-05-14b) The Committee request that the Post- doc forum devise a scheme for the Committee to consider.
- iii. Revision of IA exams (2018-05-14c). The Committee do not consider exam grades in IA to be beneficial. It was felt that UK students are fiercely examined by arrival at university and are less interested in learning, only in passing exams. A replacement system for IA exams is to be discussed by the wider University.
- iv. Access to online dissertations (2018-05-14d). The Committee acknowledged that students find it difficult to read past dissertations and recommend the wording of the student/department's agreement to publish student dissertations be revised to allow easier online access. Dissertations will be just Raven protected but recipients will be asked to agree they will not make a copy.

## 6. Reports from other committees

- i. SSCoF (2018-05-14e). No matters arising.
- ii. Directors of Studies (2018-05-14f). The Committee confirmed that Part II Units with only a small uptake will run for this year but may in future years.

## 7. Requests for sabbatical leave.

Teaching cover for Prof Anderson is still outstanding. The appointment of a new security UTO is expected shortly. Dr A. Beresford has agreed to oversee IA Software and Security Engineering in Easter term 2019. **Action DP**

## 8. 2018 student focus group discussions. (2018-05-14g).

- i. The Committee agreed with students' concerns that without the 50% option in IA, there will no courses offering a grounding in writing proofs and basic skills in reporting. The Committee suggested these could be added to IA ML practicals, Discrete Maths and IB HCI.
- ii. Students found writing code under exam conditions stressful and preferred pseudocode. The Committee will recommend this to examiners. **Action DP**

## 9. Lent course surveys are available for the committee to view at

<https://www.vle.cam.ac.uk/course/view.php?id=152701>

- i. Course concerns. IA - Student's request more Algorithms ticks. IA formal languages and automata (Discrete Maths) has no worked examples. IA Hardware should have a short introductory lecture. IB – there is still too much material in Computer Networking. Students would like a practical class.
- ii. Request for student guidance on appropriate anonymous feedback. It is proposed that: (a) the feedback system gives a reminder that what's posted needs to pay heed to the concept of professional ethics; (b) the matter is discussed with SSCOF representatives; and (c) there should be some formal method of replying to unacceptable anonymous comments. The Committee strongly concurred with this proposal and guidance will be added to the feedback system and on the website. **Action DP**

## 10. Paper 10 paper switching and briefing lecture. The HoD notice should be adjusted with regard to changing courses.

## 11. 2018-19 courses.

- i. Numerical Methods will be renamed Numerical Analysis.

- ii. Part II Principles of Communications. The Committee expressed themselves content with the proposed revisions to the course.
- iii. Part II C++. We propose the course has 4 lectures and 4 online tutorials. We do not as yet have a lecturer. **Action DP**
- iv. Interaction Design. Students have made a request to use an alternative coding language to Java. However, the Committee recommend continuing in Java as preparation for the IB Group Project.
- v. Introduction of OCaml. The Committee agreed to defer the switch to OCaml for another year.
- vi. Part IB Compiler Construction course. NA has offered to co- teach. What revisions are needed?

## 12. Any other business

- i. It was agreed that exam solutions for 2016 should be released to the students on the Friday before their first exam each year as a matter of policy.
- ii. IA NST Maths. It was agreed that it is not viable to replace the course entirely. DJW presented a comparison of the IA maths courses from the Engineering, NST and Maths triposes. The Committee propose setting up a working party to consider this. A request will be sent to Wednesday list. **Action DJG**
- iii. The new Part II unit on Datascience has overlap with MLBI. Lecturers should discuss ways of rectifying this although the Committee considered some overlap to be beneficial. **Action DP, RG, SBH**

**Date of next meeting** – Friday 29 June 2018, GS15