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 Friday 29 June 2018 at 14.15 in GS15

AGENDA & NOTES

Members

Prof Alan Blackwell (*Deputy HoD)*
Dr David Greaves *(Chairman)*
Dr Hatice Gunes
Dr Robert Harle *(Part IA coordinator)-sabbatical leave.*

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

2. **Notification of any other business**
   i.   Proposal to remove the IB Prolog tick.
   ii. Post doc forum proposal for shadowing lecturers

3. **Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**
   The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. **Matters arising.**
   i.   General Board has approved the removal of the 50% option and the decision to end NST borrowing of CST Paper 1. The decision will be announced in the Reporter shortly. The Committee welcomed this announcement.
   ii. 12.iii. A meeting is to be held to consider overlap between Part II MLBI and the new Part II unit on Datascience.
   iii. A mathematics working group are considering the teaching of mathematics within the computer science tripos. **Action DJW**

5. **Correspondence.**
   Post-doc proposal to shadow lecturers. The post-doc group will be asked to clarify how much work a shadow would undertake. **Action AFB**

6. **Sabbatical cover for Prof Anderson for the calendar year 2019-20.** Prof Anderson will teach IB Economics, Law and Ethics in Michaelmas 2018 and Dr A Hutchins will observe in preparation for delivering the course in Michaelmas term 2019. Dr A. Beresford will give IA Software and Security Engineering in Easter term 2019.

7. **2018 examination report. RDM (2018-06-29a)**
    Dr Mullins reported that the examination process had gone smoothly with only one minor on a paper. No apparent problems were caused by industrial action. The Committee welcomed the report. In particular, the Committee endorsed the recommendation that the Part II dissertation submission date be set one week earlier. It is hoped this will reduce pressure on students by allowing more time for exam preparation. This will be further discussed by the Director of Studies forum and referred to Faculty Board for approval. **Action DP**
    The performance of IB students taking either Paper 3 or Paper 7 was compared. 2% more students taking paper 3 were awarded first class but this was not considered of significance.
8. **Easter course surveys were discussed by the Committee.**
    Formal models of Language lacks a reading list. Interaction Design received good mean statistics but there were some negative comments. The Committee request that where a course is taken by two different year groups, they should be surveyed separately to produce finer-grained data. **Action DJG/DP**

9. **2018-19 courses.**
    i.   Part IB Compiler Construction course. It is proposed that NA will be the back-up lecturer and liaise to synchronise the course with Paper 10 Meta-programming. Suggestions for the course structure are to reduce lecture content and use the time for more practical exercises, but not to introduce a tick.
    ii. The committee were happy with the proposed revisions to IA Software and Security Engineering. **Action ARB**
    iii. Part II Hoare Logic and Model Checking. A lecturer for half the course is being sought. Action DP
    iv. C++ lectures will be taught at the start of Michaelmas term. AM will coordinate lectures. AVSM will organise practicals at the start of Lent term.
    v.   The Committee were happy for Prolog to be taught in Lent term with practical exercises as an alternative to a vacation tick. **Action ACR**

10. The Part II exam structure for 2019 will shortly be finalised and will be circulated.

11. **BCS accreditation.** Faculty Board have asked us to consider accreditation for Parts IA and IB. The Committee agreed it would be practical to have a compulsory tick exercise for IB Economics, Law and Ethics if required.

12. **Student support initiative.** The Committee welcomed the initiative and support proposals and are happy to work with colleges to support life-long learning.

13. **Digital examinations.** The Committee welcomed suggestions for replacements to hand-written exams. They had some concerns about the handling of large numbers of scripts in a real-world situation and would like some further information**. Action DP**

14. **The future of exams.** The Committee welcomed a move away from formal, end of year exams and would like more information about other opportunities for assessment. Computer Science Paper 3 is largely based on practical work. For example, would written reports at the end of modules be allowable as an alternative to a written examination? **Action DP**

15. The Committee supported the aim of encouraging larger group supervisions throughout the Tripos. A change to expected norms will be further discussed at the forthcoming Directors of Studies Forum. One concern is the expectation of marking. How this is tackled by the Engineering Department will be investigated. **Action DJW**

16. Structured meeting discussion on workload. Larger group supervisions can significantly reduce workload. The new Part II units of assessment are a good opportunity to pilot larger groups.

17. Any other business
The Committee warmly thanked Dr David Greaves for his hard work as Chairman over the past four years.

Date of next meeting – Monday 8 October 2018, GC22