



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE
Computer Laboratory

Faculty of Computer Science & Technology
Tripos Management Committee

Chairman: Dr Timothy Jones

Secretary: Ms Dinah Pounds

Minutes of the meeting of the Tripos Management Committee
held on Monday 8 October 2018 at 14.15 in GC22

AGENDA & NOTES

Members

Prof Alan Blackwell (*Deputy HoD*)
Dr Timothy Jones (*Chairman*)
Dr Hatice Gunes (*on leave*)
Dinah Pounds (*Secretary*)

Dr Amanda Prorok
Megan Sammons (*Student Administrator*)
Prof Frank Stajano
Dr Damon Wischik

Dr Tim Jones was warmly welcomed as the new Chairman of the Committee.

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.

- i. 12iii: A new syllabus has been prepared for the Data Science course and there is no overlap with MLBI.
- ii. A trial scheme was set up for post-docs to shadow lecturers. There were no volunteers to take part this term.
- iii. C++ will now be taught in Part IB. There will be two lectures given in Michaelmas term at the end of the Programming in C course and one section of one Programming in C exam question will contain a question on C++.
- iv. The Department has taken the decision not to continue with accreditation by the British Computer Society. Colleges have informed incoming students.
- v. It has been agreed that the new Part II units have sufficient small group teaching built into the courses and do not need supervisions.

5. Correspondence.

None

- 6. Sabbatical leave. Prof Alan Blackwell requests approval for sabbatical leave for the academic year 2019/2020. (2018-10-08a)** The Committee were pleased to support this application. Two undergraduate courses are affected: IB Further HCI and Part II Computer Music. The current co-teacher for Further HCI will lecture the

course. In preparation, he will assist with script marking in 2019. Dr Hatice Gunes will be asked to oversee the course and examination. Part II Computer Music will not run for 2019-20. **Action DP**

7. The appointment of a Part IA coordinator. Dr Harle has expressed his willingness to return to this position on his return from sabbatical leave in Easter term 2019. His availability will be confirmed shortly. Part IA lecturers have confirmed the importance of having one coordinator to organise the practical groups.

8. Proposals for Part II Units of Assessments for 2019-20 and recommended class sizes. Some courses are running with tiny numbers although they are also open to ACS students.

A general invitation is to be sent to all lecturers, and particularly to those newly appointed, to propose courses for the Part II units of assessment. These will be considered at the TMC meeting on 12 November. The Committee also considered the best approach to making a decision as to whether or not a course with low numbers should run. Currently ACS lecturers of courses with low numbers are given a choice of whether to lecture courses with low numbers. The intention is to create a general policy which applies to both the Tripos and the ACS. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

9. Revision of Part IA. Consideration of any broader revisions needed after NST borrowing ends in 2020 and the future of Numerical Analysis. Progress on the introduction of OCaml.

- i. There are currently 64 Tripos courses. The longer term aim of the Department is to reduce this number, initially by reducing the number of 8 lecture courses.
- ii. The intention of the current revision of Numerical Analysis is to reinforce the course as a pre-requisite for IB Foundations of Data Science.
- iii. The Maths working party will consider the loss of the CST+ Maths option in conjunction with NST Maths and the revision of Discrete Maths. **Action DJW**
- iv. The Committee will request a report from Dr Madhavapeddy on the progress on installing OCaml. Ideally, the Committee would like to have something to test and the students pilot by February. **Action DP**

10. Arrangements and requirements for students wishing to transfer into the Computer Science Tripos. The Committee are asked to consider whether we loosen the regulations to allow more flexibility with NST transfers, intermissions etc.

<https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/2017/chapter04-section9.html#heading2-42>

The Committee agreed an amendment to regulations should be made to enable students to transfer into IB or Part II of the Tripos. The onus will be on colleges to ensure the students are able to catch up missed papers. **Action AFB.**

11. The role of post-docs in lecturing on the Tripos. (2018-10-08b) The Committee recognised the concerns raised. It is proposed to enable post-docs to register an interest in any lecturing opportunities on the Moodle supervisor 'matchmaking' site. This will be available to TMC when considering sabbatical cover for Part II or ACS course.

12. Timetable for 2019-20. A particular issue is the placing of Introduction to Graphics and Further Graphics in Michaelmas term and the difficulties of DoS in trying to find sufficient supervisors. The Committee felt that the issue would be resolved as Dr Mantiuk's group expands.

13. Student Barometer report. (2018-10-08c). The Committee noted there were concerns about the explanations of marking/assessment criteria. The Committee particularly discussed the feedback given for Part II projects. The topic will be revisited to consider ways of improving formative feedback.

Date of next meeting – Monday 12 November 2018, GS15