

**Faculty of Computer Science & Technology
Tripos Management Committee**

Chairman: Dr Timothy Jones

Secretary: Ms Dinah Pounds

Minutes of the Tripos Management Committee
held on Monday 12 November 2018 at 14.15 in GS15

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

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Notification of any other business

- i. Part II unit proposal on Cybercrime.
- ii. Sabbatical request from Prof E. Briscoe
- iii. Request for views on admitting an under-age student.
- iv. Course proposal from Prof A. Dawar.
- v. Course proposal from Dr T. Sauerwald

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved.

4. Matters arising.

- i. It was confirmed Tripos regulations would not be changed until the 50% option ends in 2020. The regulations will then be revised to enable students to transfer into CST Part IB for another tripos.
- ii. Introduction of OCaml. The funding for this project has now been confirmed and work will commence in January. The Committee requested a report on progress and a prototype by the end of Lent term.

5. Correspondence.

None

6. Other committees

- i. Directors of Studies (2018-11-12a) The minutes were received. The request for numbers management on applications for 2019 awaits the Admissions Forum decision. The Committee expressed the view that computer science is now so significant in other science areas that it should automatically be taught alongside mathematics. In the longer term, rather than focussing on growing the Computer

Science Tripos, computer science should become an integral part of other disciplines.

NST Maths Examiner appointment. The Committee were not able to recommend anyone in the Department who would be in a position to take on this role and expressed gratitude to Dr Fawcett for undertaking it.

- ii. SSCoF (2018-11-12b) Dr Prorok reported:
 - a. Students requested practicals for Part IB Concurrent and distributed systems, Computer Networking, Compiler Construction and IA Operating systems. Canvassing of the lecturers involved suggests that this would require a major overhaul. The Committee are sympathetic to course revision and will consider this as part of overall revision of the tripos.
 - b. Students requested more help with getting into coding. This could be achieved using the first OCaml tick. A report will be circulated.
Action ASP
 - c. The Committee expressed mixed views on the students' request for lectures to be recorded. The issue is being discussed at a University-wide level and the Committee will consider the University proposal when presented.

7. Tripos matters

- i. Supervisions for Part II. Concern was expressed that Directors of Studies were finding it difficult to cover supervisions for Part II students on the 50% stream. Directors of Studies will be canvassed to check if there are any difficulties.
Action DP
- ii. CamSIS exam enrolment. FMS shared the difficulties for Directors of Studies. This was deemed to be an issue for colleges and outside the remit of this Committee.
- iii. Digital Electronics. The Committee agreed in principle that some of the course content could be reduced. The Chair will discuss this with the lecturer. It is a longer term aim to streamline computer architecture courses across all three years of the Tripos. Revision of Digital Electronics will form part of this reorganisation.

Action TMJ

- 8. **NSS survey 2018.** Results are not published due to a low response rate across the University. The information provided to the Department internally shows that student satisfaction with Computer Science Tripos is above the University average in all areas except in resources. There was no detailed feedback given which defined which resources were considered below average.

9. Part II supervision report.

- i. Demand for supervisions has been very high this term but most Part II courses have had sufficient supervisors to meet demand. Bioinformatics and Principles of Communications have proved very difficult to cover with some supervisions not taking place until Lent term. Information Theory and Business studies held examples classes in lieu of supervisions.
- ii. A supervisors' site for sharing supervision material has been set up on Moodle. This was warmly welcomed by the Committee as a way of extending course materials and exercise sheets.

10. Proposals for Part II Units of Assessments for 2019-20. (2018-11-12c)

- i. Detailed consideration of courses is deferred until the next meeting.
- ii. Students will be asked to make their provisional choices at the end of Lent term.

11. Draft Education Strategy (2018-11-12d). The Committee noted there was a porosity of discussion on the teaching of mathematics across science disciplines. AFB to report to Faculty Board.

12. Degree classification (2018-11-12e) The Committee is not fully supportive of the proposals. Whilst agreeing with the general principles, the Committee did not have confidence in the calculations and analysis of the figures and would like more information on the impact on individual groups, and in particular, females. AFB to report to Faculty Board.

13. Any other business

- i. The Committee expressed some concern as to whether a cybercrime was an appropriate topic for a CS undergraduate course. It will be considered at a later date with the other Unit proposals.
- ii. The Committee fully supported the sabbatical request from Prof Briscoe and expressed thanks for his support in enabling Part II Data Science to take place. The course is popular and the Committee would like it to run next year if a replacement UTO can be found.
- iii. Admission of an under-aged student. The Committee do not feel it is in the best interests of a student under the age of 16 to be admitted to read Computer Science. The group design project in Part IB, in particular, is likely to be especially challenging for a student of this age, as it assumes a significant degree of emotional and professional maturity. However, if the College wishes to admit [name] then we would want assurance that they are chaperoned at all times whilst on University property and that there will not be an impact on members of the department, for instance those who deliver lectures, labs and supervisions, such as the need to obtain DBS certificates. We would also seek confirmation that arrangements are in place for supervisions and would like to have a copy of the a risk assessment the College has undertaken
- iv. The Committee welcomed the proposal for an extended Quantum Computing course. The Committee would like further information on course structure and the arrangements for teaching. **Action DP**
- v. The Committee had some concerns about the proposal to teach Advance Algorithms as an online course. Whilst this medium works well for programming courses it may not be suitable for this course. Further details as to the course structure will be sought.

Date of next meeting – Monday 21 January 2019, GC22