



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 25 February 2019 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

1. Apologies for Absence

Dr A. Prorok

2. Notification of any other business

None.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were approved subject to an agreed revision to item 5i.

4. Matters arising.

- i. The Committee expressed concerned that OCaml tools, which are quite experimental, should be properly tested before implementing the changes from ML in the IA Foundations of CS course. A budget has been agreed by SMT to employ an assistant for the implementation. Ideally this will be someone familiar with the current ML course. The Committee request the tools be up and running and tested by the start of Easter term if OCaml is to replace ML next academic year. FMS agreed to check the system prior to the start of Easter term. **Action DP/AVSM/FMS**
- ii. Offering the Part II Mobile Robot Sensors course to Engineering undergraduate students. (ASP) The course is not compatible with the Engineering tripos which has no continuous assessment and no further action to be taken on this.
- iii. The Computer Design group will meet next week to discuss the next stage of course revision. **Action TMJ**

5. Correspondence.

None

6. Reports from other committees

SSCoF (2019-02-25a)

- i. Students have expressed concern that tickers are not consistent in their questioning. The Committee recommend the Department issue brief guidelines for lecturers to give to their tickers. **Action TMJ**
- ii. IA students felt they were at a disadvantage in studying the Databases course. They do not study Discrete Maths beforehand as do the IB students. The lecturer confirmed that only basic set theory from Discrete Maths is of value for studying Databases and agreed to present some slides on the topic in the lectures. **Action DP/TGG.**
- iii. The IB representative raised further concerns about course ordering. The Committee responded that some courses are designed to teach practice first to gain 'hands-on' experience. The theory will be covered in later courses. Some students are also concerned as to what is examinable in FHCI. Full details should be clear from the course notes but the student rep is encouraged to contact the lecturer for clarification.

7. Tripos 2019-20 and future revisions.

- i. Any proposed revision to the Pre-arrival course is subject to the introduction of OCaml.
Revision of IA. The Committee felt that the material removed from OOP in the proposal (ACR) (2019-02-25b) should be placed into Software and Security Engineering and that therefore, any revision of OOP should be done in conjunction with the broader IA reforms now under discussion. This will be discussed further with the lecturer concerned. The Committee are happy for the revision of the Java ticks to be implemented for next year. **Action DP/TMJ**
As part of these wider reforms, the Committee propose that IA SSE should also contain 'Theory of Testing'. There are two pre-prepared lecturers available. **Action AFB/ARB/RJA**
DJW recommended Python should be introduced for MLRD and SHT should be involved in the wider discussions. **Action DP**
- ii. Revision of Digital Electronics (IJW) (2019-02-25c) The Committee welcomed the proposed improvements for 2019-20. Further revision will be discussed by the computer design group.
- iii. The Committee agreed with the proposal that Numerical Analysis should not be taught in future. The change should be implemented alongside the broader revision of IA. Some essential material such as optimisation and control should be retained and placed in other courses. The Committee also noted that Discrete Maths lectures cannot be fitted into the allotted number of lectures. This will be considered further at the next meeting. **Action TMJ**
- iv. Subject review on Semantics courses. The Chair will meet with AM, NK and PMS to discuss further. Some support for revising IB Compilers is also needed. **Action TMJ**
It has been proposed that the Departmental professors will carry out a longitudinal review of courses for TMC. **Action AFB**
- v. Much of the material in Part II Information Retrieval has now moved to IA MLRD. The Committee agreed this course should not run in 2019-20.
- vi. Quantum Computing. The proposed extended syllabus was welcomed. The Committee would like confirmation on whether there are any pre-requisite dependencies with DSP or Information Theory. **Action DP**
- vii. Hoare Logic and Model Checking does not have a UTO lecturer. MJ will be approached to take over this course next year. The Committee suggest other material might be included and the course become a Part II unit of assessment. **Action DP**

8. Part II Units of Assessments 2019-20

- i. The following courses will run for 2019-20:

- Advanced Operating Systems. MT
- Data Science. MT
- Multicore Semantics and Programming. MT
- Natural Language Processing. MT
- DSP. The placing of the course will be discussed further with MGK.

Action DP/TMJ

- Advanced Graphics and Image Processing. LT
 - Cloud Computing. LT
 - Mobile Robot Systems. LT
 - Probability and Computation. LT
 - Topics in Concurrency. LT
- ii. Units not running:
- Computer Music.
 - Metaprogramming.

9. Any other business

None

Date of next meeting – Monday 13 May 2019, GC22