

## COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS

Unconfirmed minutes of a meeting of the Committee of Management for the Natural Sciences Tripos at 2 pm on **Tuesday 14 June 2005** in Seminar Room B, 17 Mill Lane.

Present: Dr J Keeler (Chairman), Dr W Allison, Dr P Barrie, Dr R Hardie, Dr N Holmes, Dr P Oliver, Ms H Stagg, Mrs S Stobbs, Professor MG Worster and Dr MG Russell (Secretary).

Apologies: Professor TW Clyne, Dr K Johnstone, Dr S Holden, Mr A Jefferies, Dr J Russell, Dr S Schaffer, Mr N Tammuz and Dr N Woodcock.

### 265. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 May 2005 were approved.

### 266. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee noted that the Secretary had written to the Faculty Boards of Biology, and Physics and Chemistry and to the Board of History and Philosophy of Science about their representatives on the Committee, and that this might be the last meeting for Dr Johnstone, Dr Allison and Dr Schaffer.

It also noted that this was the last meeting for the current Chairmen of Examiners: Dr Oliver and Dr Hardie. They were thanked for their contributions.

### 267. REPORTED AND STRAIGHTFORWARD

The Committee received a paper of reported business (**CM.288**). It included:

- Changes to regulations: Part IB (timetabling) and Part IB Neurobiology (**CM.289**)
- Minutes of the Strategic Committee for the NST, 23 May 2005 (**CM.290**)
- First draft of the Annual Report, 2004-5 (**CM.291**)
- Programme Specification, 2005-6 (**CM.292**)
- Electronic Calculators in Examinations, 2005-6: Notice (**CM.293**)

Regarding the changes to the regulations for the examination in Part IB Neurobiology, **the Committee agreed that, at its next meeting, it should review the diversity of the examination arrangements for Part IB of the Tripos.**

Regarding the minutes of the Strategic Committee, the Committee noted the ongoing concerns over the Bologna Process. Dr Worster also reported that the Syllabus Committee for Mathematics in the Natural Sciences Tripos would be meeting twice in the Michaelmas Term to discuss the issues raised by the General Board and the Strategic Committee, and that he would be writing to Heads of Departments shortly on these matters.

### 268. MATTERS ARISING

#### i. List of field courses and other costs within the Tripos (minute 257)

In connection with course costs and supporting the continuation of field study, the Committee had requested a list of all current field courses offered within the Tripos: this was now received (**CM.294**). The Committee noted that, from 2005-6, students were being asked to contribute money towards field courses, with no recourse to the Vacation Studies Grant money. The Committee noted that the case for student contribution would need to be made by the Councils of the Schools to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and requested that the Secretary keep it updated on developments. It further noted that the list would usefully be published on the NST website in future.

**ii. Open Days** (minutes 258ii, 247ii, 238iv, 228)

The Committee noted that Dr Johnstone had previously reported that he was working towards co-ordinated displays for the Open Days: no progress was reported.

**iii. General Board Review of Part III of the Tripos** (minutes 258iii, 248)

The Committee noted that the report had not yet been finalised by the Review Committee, but that the major issue for this committee was likely to be reviewing the consistency of Part III courses with respect to entry requirements, course structure, student workload and assessment. The issue of course sharing between individual subjects was a topic likely to arise from these considerations. **The Committee agreed that it would meet, if necessary, before its next scheduled meeting to consider the report and its recommendations.**

**iv. On-line Part IA Practical Registrations** (minutes 258iv, 249)

The Committee received extracts from meetings of the Senior Tutors' Committees, relating to discussions of the proposal for on-line practical registration at Part IA, for information (**CM.295**). It noted that the concerns focussed around the user-friendliness of the system for Directors of Studies, and the timing of data entry. The Secretary reported that the timing of data entry would depend on the time needed for the algorithm being developed by CARET to run, but that good progress was being made. The Committee further noted that all Departments would need to maintain a facility to move individual candidates after the allocation process had taken place. The Secretary would report further progress by circulation.

**v. "Natural Sciences" Leaflet** (minutes 258v, 251)

The Committee noted that the revised leaflet had now been published on the NST website.

**vi. Computer Science Tripos, Part IA** (minute 262)

The Secretary reported that the Computer Laboratory had responded to the concerns raised by the Committee at its last meeting, and that those concerns were noted by the General Board prior to them approving the proposals.

**269. ITEMS OF RESERVED BUSINESS**

- **Appointment of Examiners for the Tripos, 2005-2006**

**270. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting would take place at **2:00 pm** on **Tuesday 18 October 2005** in the Meeting Room at CRASSH [to be confirmed].