

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS

Unconfirmed minutes of a meeting of the Committee of Management for the Natural Sciences Tripos held at **2:15 pm on Tuesday 6 March 2007** in the **Seminar B Room at 17 Mill Lane**.

Present: Dr N Holmes (Chairman), Dr R Barnes, Professor B Clyne, Dr P Dupree, Dr S Holden, Dr J Keeler, Dr J Little, Dr B Nolan, Dr R Padman, Mrs S Stobbs, , Miss E Bailey, Miss A Turnbull and Mrs K Allen (Secretary).

Apologies: Dr D Buscher, Dr K Johnstone, Dr N Woodcock, Professor MG Worster
Absent: Dr S Schaffer.

358. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2007, subject to a few minor amendments, were approved.

359. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Chairman welcomed Professor Michael Carpenter to the meeting as the co-opted member from the Department Earth Sciences.

360. MATTERS ARISING

i. Tripos examinations (minute 334, iii, IV).

The Committee noted that it had previously requested the Secretary to contact the Board of Exams re the concerns raised by the Chairmen of Part IA and Part IB of the Tripos. Paper (**CM.401**) detailed the response. The Committee were informed that many of these concerns had been raised by the Faculty of Biology. Proposals on arrangements for the MVST students' practicals had been suggested, paper (**CM.402**). However this does not cover the provision require by all students registering a disability, some may need more individual needs, and this will need separate co-orientation.

The Committee felt it sensible to also adopt such a proposal.

ii. Classing at IA (Cohort Tracking) (minute 334i; 337iv)

The Secretary informed the Committee that this issue was still awaiting a response from Student records.

iii. Revision of the CST (minute 339)

From October 2008, the 25% Comp. Sci. option formally becomes part of NST. Within the NST students at Part IA must take either Maths A or B if studying physical sciences and QB if opting for biological sciences. Elementary maths for biologists (EMB) is taken by students not having taken A level maths. Comp. Sci. currently requires its students take Maths A or Maths B.

Does the Committee feel it will be acceptable for students taking the computer science option at Part IA in the NST to study biological maths?

The Committee felt it would be the role of the DoSs to advise students on the best maths option to take depending on the student's other choices at Part IA, i.e. if taking mainly biological subjects then QB would be appropriate or if mainly physical sciences then Maths A or B. EMB would not be a suitable option as Comp Sci students will come with A level maths.

361. REPORTED AND STRAIGHTFORWARD BUSINESS

The Committee received a summary of reported business (CM.403). It included:

i. Minutes from the Strategic Committee for the NST, 14 Nov 2006 (CM.404) and 15 Feb 2007 (CM.405).

The Committee noted the following items on the minutes:

- the Review of Part III and the proposals for introducing course sharing, (to be discussed later on the agenda);
- the Review of the Governance of the Tripos. The Strategic Committee is recommending a replacement Strategic Committee with a broader remit, covering all Schools teaching the sciences. The Management Committee would therefore take on the strategic aspects of the Tripos. The Committee felt to this would increase their workload.

ii. Paper detailing the Learning Landscapes Project (CM.406)

The Committee noted the initiative, and would track its progress through more local Committees.

351. PART IB PHYSICS COURSE

The Committee received paper (CM.407) from the Department of Physics proposing changes to their Part IB course. Dr R Padman introduced the proposal to allow Physics and Advanced Physics at Part IB to be taken as separate single subjects; currently students can't take Advanced Physics without taking Physics. This will allow students greater flexibility of subject choices. The proposal has been approved by the Teaching Committee.

The Committee noted the changes to examinations, and the department will prepare the necessary changes to the Regulations

The Committee were happy to support these changes.

352. PART III COURSE SHARING PROPOSALS

The Committee received the back ground paper (CM.408) which was accepted by the General Board Education Committee in July 2006.

It was reported that the SNST has since been working towards completing the proposals. The 'draft' proposal was considered by the Committee (CM. 409). After a lengthy discussion the Committee felt this proposal was incomplete and too rushed for full implementation next academic year. A staged introduction of courses may be achievable.

The Committee requested to see more detailed plans of the courses proposed, naming courses and stating when they would be available.

The Secretary will contact the relevant Champions for further details.

353. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting shall take place at **2:15 pm on Tuesday 8 May 2007** in the **Seminar B Room at 17 Mill Lane.**