

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE NATURAL SCIENCES TRIPOS

Unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Committee of Management for the Natural Sciences Tripos held at 2:15 pm on Tuesday 29th January 2019 in the **Greaves Dixon Room, Department of Pathology, Tennis Court Road.**

Present: Dr Nicholas Holmes (in the Chair), Professor John Richer, Dr David Summers, Dr Deborah Longbottom, Dr Tim Weil, Dr Sandra Fulton, Dr Stewart Sage, Dr Daniel Margocsy, Ms Victoria Chris and Jane Clare (Secretary).

Apologies were received from Professor James Elliott, Dr Eric Rees, Dr Nick Butterfield, Dr Kate Plaisted-Grant, Dr Bill Nolan and Dr Dee Scadden.

962) Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2018 were approved with a minor correction.

963) Matters Arising Not Elsewhere on the Agenda

- i. Minute 950)i) 20 November 2018 refers
The Committee heard that Physics IB lectures have moved into the Cockcroft Lecture Theatre which is an improvement, although there is currently no heating. There is a possibility that the Cockcroft will be available until May 2019, but no confirmation as yet.
- ii. IA Biology of Cells has moved to the Bristol-Myers Squibb lecture theatre in Chemistry and both students and staff are more comfortable.
- iii. Minute 950)ii) 20 November 2018 refers – Earth Sciences/Materials Science lecture slot swap
The Chair reported that he and the Secretary had visited both departments for discussion and that Earth Sciences was amenable to the swap. They had also visited UIS to discuss whether the swap could be modelled on the IA allocator. UIS had undertaken to do this work during the period mid-February to early July, when they would be able to confirm whether a swap was feasible.
- iv. Minute 953) 20 November 2018 refers – Overall Degree Classification and Ranking
The Chair reported that he had forwarded a response to Educational & Student Policy.

964) Membership

The Committee welcomed Victoria Chris (Fitzwilliam) as student representative on the Committee for the School of Biological Science.

The School of Physical Sciences had been requested to nominate a student rep.

965) Reported and Straightforward Business

The minutes of the meeting of the Biological Sciences Committee held on 28th November 2018 were noted along with a pre-interview Admissions Assessments 2018 research summary.

966) Update on the NST Part IA Allocator

The Chair reported that he and the Secretary had visited Raymond Chan and Nick Mattin at UIS to discuss the progress of updating or replacing the IA allocator. After initial discussions about the complexities of the current legacy software, the conversation turned to the new Director, Professor Ian Leslie, and his interest in and understanding of the IA allocation process. The allocator is also being discussed within the Education Space Scheduling & Modelling (ESSM) project and the Curriculum Data project. The Chair was optimistic that some progress was being made, albeit slowly.

967) Recording of Lectures

The Faculty of Biology had received a complaint (via OSCCA) from a student who was unable to attend Saturday lectures for religious reasons. The Faculty had designed a form (based on one from the DRC) 'Permission to Audio Record Lectures for Religious Reasons'. The Committee approved the form but requested a minor amendment to make clear that responsibility for making the recording lay with the student (who could pass it to the college) rather than the department. The form would then be sent to the Senior Tutors' Education Committee, and once approved, brought to the notice of students and Directors of Studies, and put on the NST website.

Action: Form to be amended by the Faculty of Biology and forwarded to the Senior Tutors' Education Committee via the Secretary.

968). NST Booklet

The Committee approved the new NST booklet, designed by Cambridge Admissions Office and offered the following feedback:

- Page 9, Field Trips. A link to the 'course costs' page of the NST website (<https://www.natsci.tripos.cam.ac.uk/prospective-students/costs>) should be added.
- The majority of photographs feature students in a wet lab setting (i.e. biological students). The Committee would like to see some replaced with photos of students in a physical lab, or in lectures.
- There is a formatting problem on page 15 which means some A level requirements are listed in the incorrect column,
- The email address at the bottom of each page (www.study.ac.uk) appears to be incorrect.
- There is some inconsistency with the naming of subjects in the student comments. It is not clear whether Math B refers to Mathematical Biology or stream B of Maths. The Secretary to check with the Admissions Office. Once clear, the Committee requests two comments from students taking Mathematics and two from students taking Mathematical Biology (with a 50/50 gender split).
- The Committee chose student quote 3.

Action: Secretary to submit feedback to the Admissions Office.

969) Any Other Business

There was none.

970) Date of next meeting

The Committee noted the date of the next meeting as Tuesday 26th February 2019 in the Greaves Dixon Room, Department of Pathology, Tennis Court Road.