At this time the University was closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Online assessment was planned for all undergraduate examinations during Easter 2020. IA and IB would undergo formative assessment but would be allowed to progress.

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Management for the Natural Sciences Tripos held at 4 pm on Wednesday 8th April 2020 via the Teams system.

Present: Dr Nicholas Holmes (Chair), Dr Tim Weil, Dr Deborah Longbottom, Dr Nick Butterfield, Dr Jess Gwynne, Dr Ulrich Schneider (for the first item), Dr Benedicte Sanson, Dr David Summers, Dr Harvey Reall (for the first item), Dr Hannah Clarke, Dr Julia Davies, Professor James Elliott, Dr Sandra Fulton, Dr Patrick Barrie, Ms Jasvin Kaur (student representative, Biological Sciences) and Ms Katie MacLeod (student representative, Physical Sciences).

1013) Update on alternative assessment plans
Dr Tim Weil and Dr Deborah Longbottom provided an update. Both Schools had now issued guidelines to departments and students.

It was expected that an amended examination timetable would be released sometime in mid-May.

1014) Part II Allocations
Three documents had been circulated: Part II place numbers since 2016, a discussion paper and comments and suggestions from second year students.

The Chair led the discussion around how Part II places would be allocated this year, given the absence of IB marks.

Ms Kaur had nothing to add to the suggestions and comments already circulated. Ms MacLeod said that student feedback indicated they were not in favour of using IA marks.

One suggestion had been for students to submit motivational statements, but this was agreed to be unworkable because personal statements were difficult to assess in an objective way. Given the circumstances, it was not the right time to implement radical change.

After discussion it was agreed that a hybrid system would be preferable using the following principles:

- A rank metric based on IA percentile rankings would be devised.
- Subjects not oversubscribed would allocate all applicants that had designated them first choice;
- Students choosing oversubscribed subjects would have the opportunity to change choice and the numbers be re-run;
- 80% of places would be allocated using the rank metric;
- The remaining 20% would be allocated on the basis of something else, perhaps marks in the relevant IA experimental classes, or some other means yet to be decided.
Ms MacLeod noted that there should be some means of dealing with students who had not sat IA examinations but she was reassured that the system always coped with a small number of students without IB marks, and the same principles would be applied.

**Action:** The Chair to develop a rank metric based on NST and Medical and Veterinary Tripos IA marks.

1015) AOB  
There was none.

1016) **Date of next meeting**  
The next meeting is scheduled for 2:15 pm on Tuesday 5\textsuperscript{th} May 2020. Committee members will be notified whether it will go ahead.