

# Curriculum Committee minutes 2 Dec 2014

January 5, 2015

## 1 Attendance

Lois Baker, Irena Borzým, Tim Large, Henrik Latter, John Lister, Julius Ross, Michael Tehranchi (chairman)

## 2 Membership

1. According to Constitution of the the Curriculum Committee, approved by the Faculty Board on 20 November 2014, the membership includes

“(v) up to two members co-opted by the Committee”.

In order to assist in the on-going review of the teaching of analysis, and in particular the replacement to Part II PDEs course, the Committee would like to co-opt Prof Mouhot to serve until the end of the 2014-15 academic year.

2. Constitution further says that the Committee consists

“(iii) of two members of DAMTP and, two members of DPMMS, two of whom should be College Teaching Officers”.

and notes that at present the Committee is short one member of DPMMS.

## 3 Exam results

At the request of the (2014) Chairman of the Faculty Board, a document titled “Analysis of exam results in the Mathematics Tripos and other Cambridge Triposes” by Bernard Rivers (a former visitor to Cambridge) was tabled, and its results discussed briefly. The document shows (i) There are substantial differences in the percentages of Firsts and Upper Seconds between the various Cambridge Triposes (ii) Over the last 15 years there has been a significant increase in the percentages of Firsts and Upper Seconds in some Triposes, notably in the

Arts where the average has now reached 94%. (iii) The percentages in Mathematics have been stable for the last 15 years, and in accordance with Faculty guidelines. The Committee agreed that the document was not a useful way to evaluate the Faculty guidelines. No action is recommended.

## **4 C courses in Part II**

The schedule for a proposed course on Computability will be drafted by Dr Forster in time for the first meeting of the C Course Working Party at the beginning of the Lent term.

## **5 Analysis**

1. The Committee recommends that Part II Partial Differential Equations be converted into an analysis course. The Committee's deliberations are reflected in the attached policy paper.
2. Furthermore, the Committee discussed the teaching of analysis throughout the Tripos. It was noted that some students may come away with the impression that analysis is a collection of puzzles and not see the unifying goals of the subject. One such goal is the study of partial differential equations. Although Picard's theorem appears in Part IB Analysis II, there might be scope to re-orient the IA and IB analysis schedules. However, no specific recommendations came of this discussion.
3. It was noted that the Part II Topics in Analysis is on agenda of the C Course Working Party.

## **6 Next meeting**

The Committee will meet again during the Lent Term. The precise timing will be decided by email.