

Biannual meeting of the Directors of Studies in Mathematics

DRAFT (UNAPPROVED) MINUTES

Date and time Tuesday 6th May 2014, 11am

Venue Trinity Hall, Graham Storey Room

Present Stephen Siklos (Jesus and Admissions), Katherina Liebing (St Johns), Rachel Camina (Fitzwilliam), Peter O'Donnell (St Edmunds), Christopher Tout (Churchill), Barry Groisman (Sydney), Ross Lawther (Girton), Stuart Martin (Magdalene), Vicky Neale (Murray Edwards), Julia Goedecke (Newnham), Susan Pitts (Chair Part III Committee), Sophia Demoulini (Downing), Orsola Ruth Spivak (Lucy Cavendish), Adriana Pesci (Downing), John Lister (Trinity), Stephen Cowley (Emma and Faculty Chairperson), Irena Borzym (St Caths), Wayne Boucher (Sidney), Sam Pegler (Corpus), Robert Hunt (Christ's), Mathew Wingate (Fitzwilliam), Maciej Dunajski (Clare), Thomas Forster (St Edmunds and Clare Hall), Jack Button (Selwyn), Anita Briginshw (Selwyn), Tom Körner (Trinity Hall and DOS Chairperson)

1. Apologies: Jonathan Evans, Chris Brookes, Julia Gog, Nilanjana Datta, David Stewart.

2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted subject to a very minor amendment.

3. Matters arising from the minutes.

There were none.

4. Tripos matters: Parts IA, IB and II

a Following a request from the Faculty Board, the meeting discussed the pressures on weaker students.

(1) The problems were felt to be particularly important at IB level.

(2) The meeting wished to encourage the work of the 'Teaching and Learning Review Working Party'. The Directors of Studies would like to have a full discussion of its conclusions so far (with attached papers) at the next DOS meeting.

(3) The DOS meeting *recommends* to the Faculty Board an immediate experiment under which two or three of the Lent IB sixteen lecture courses be given at the rate of three a week to allow for better use of supervision time.

b The meeting considered the changes in the C and D courses in Part II. The loss of two C courses was acceptable in the short term, but more thought should be given to the nature and success of the C courses in the long term. The chair encouraged people to propose possible C course to the curriculum committee. One suggestion, which had also been made at the Faculty Board, was a course on algorithms.

5. Tripos matters: Part III

The Part III Committee is continuing to work on the support given Part III Courses. The meeting strongly *recommended* that each course in the Part III Guide to Courses should contain an explicit statement of the backup to be provided.

6. Admissions

The DOS confirmed the decision of the previous meeting to set up a joint Colleges and Faculty Board Forum. The initial form would be that approved by the Faculty Board at its May 1st meeting.

The meeting agreed that suggestions for membership should be sent *as soon as possible* to the chairs of the FB and DOS meeting who would be entrusted with the final choices.

The DOS chair hoped that, once the forum had been set up, all those with ideas about admissions should submit them to the forum.

7 STEP

There was a discussion about early taking of STEP 1. Dr Siklos said that the points made would be very useful in discussions with the Admissions Forum and the Faculty Board.

8 Open days

Colleges need to cooperate to ensure an even distribution of attendance over the two days.

It was generally felt that the opening up of the CMS on the two open days had been successful and the meeting hoped that the experiment would be continued.

A vote of thanks to Dr Siklos for his many contributions to the smooth running of STEP, open days, etc, etc was passed by acclamation.

9 Athena SWAN

The meeting heard a short report. The DOS were grateful to all involved and realised that progress would require sustained effort. There will be an open meeting with more details on 19th May.

11 Other business.

There was none.

12 Next meeting

Fitzwilliam has very kindly agreed to swap its rota position with Murray Edwards and will therefore chair the meeting next year. Subject to final confirmation, the date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 18th November and the time 2 o'clock.