

**OXFORD UNIVERSITY COMPUTING LABORATORY
JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Notes of meeting held on Monday 5th November 2007 at 12 noon in room 441

Present: Richard Bird
 Duncan Coutts
 Janice Giudice
 Christine O'Connor

1. Notes of the meeting held on 28th May 2007

Matters arising:

Student conference: DC reported that a conference had not been organised for Computer Science DPhils. The original idea had been for it to take place in week 1 of MT so that new DPhils could attend. There are separate conferences for Computer Science and for NA Group DPhils.

Administrator rights: This matter has not been resolved. DC felt that there was a clear way forward by upgrading to nfs4 which would make it possible to have a network where DPhils could have administrator rights on their own machine without having access to other people's files. JG had experienced difficulty in getting help from support with Windows because they were too busy. DC said that it is entirely possible to allow users to install msi applications so that it installs just into own user space rather than globally.

Ian Collier appears to be the only person supporting the Linux PCs. DC said that most of the DPhils are bringing in their own laptops rather than using the PCs because the quality of support is not adequate.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with MKH. DC will think about the size of the problem and the timeframes in readiness for the discussion.

ACTION: CMOC/DC

Common Room: This does not really work; DPhils do not know one another and there are few opportunities for them to get together or to meet academic staff. It has been agreed to arrange a lunch on Friday of week 6 of term to bring together everyone – DPhils and Research Assistants. It might also be possible to organise free doughnuts and coffee once a week; CMOC to check whether this is possible.

ACTION: CMOC

Equipment Committee: Information on the number of incoming PRS students had been provided to MJF and there had been fewer problems this year.

Recycling: JG felt that the matter had still not been solved. The amount of paper that is just thrown away is vast. Also, the paper we are buying is not recycled. CMOC will look into this again.

ACTION: CMOC

Transfer dissertations: A revised section on this will be inserted in the Graduate Course Handbook.

ACTION: CMOC

Replacement for Duncan Coutts: DC is working on this.

ACTION: DC

2. Matters raised by Graduate Representatives

The only matters that have been raised have been complaints about computers. However, the number of complaints has reduced in the last 2 to 3 years.

3. CETL

This relates to transferable skills for graduates. Courses can be provided by the Department but the Division also makes some courses available, though places have to be paid for and there is a penalty if a student fails to turn up.

DC mentioned his experience of the course on teaching run by Mathematics; he had found this very useful. It was run by Brian Stewart and took place one lunch time every week during term. Students brought their own sandwiches and Maths provided soft drinks. PJ would be asked to talk to Brian Stewart about setting up a similar course.

ACTION: CMOC

4. Any other business

RSB mentioned that there is to be a pilot meeting of a Divisional Consultative Committee for Graduates on 12th November at 3.30 p.m. in the Conference Room at MPLS. There will be input and feedback on topics of a general nature. DC agreed to attend the first half of the meeting if necessary but hoped to find a replacement in time to attend in his place. Possible student rep replacements might be Sara Adams, Tomasz Mazur, Toby Murray, Julian Tibble, Stuart Golodetz or Julian de Hoog.

ACTION: DC