

**FACULTY BOARD OF BIOLOGY
MEDICAL SCIENCES TRIPOS AND VETERINARY SCIENCES TRIPOS
PART I MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

There was an online meeting of the MVST Part I Committee at 2.00pm on
Tuesday 9 March 2021.

MINUTES

There were present: Dr Robert Abayasekara, Dr David Bainbridge, Dr Cecilia Brassett, Dr Holly Canuto (Chair), Miss Naimh Casstles (2nd year CUVS rep), Dr Marc de la Roche, Dr Robbie Duschinsky, Dr Steve Edgley, Dr Mary Fortune, Dr Gillian Fraser, Dr Sandra Fulton, Prof Dino Giussani, Dr Adrian Kelly, Dr Mairi Kilkenny, Dr Becky Lawson, Dr Hugh Matthews, Dr Paul Miller, Miss Emily Moon (1st year CUVS), Dr Gareth Pearce, Mr Rahlul Shah (Academic Officer, MedSoc), Dr David Summers, Dr Anne Swift, Mr Boyan Wang (Fac Bd student rep), Dr Rob White, Prof Alun Williams, Mr Azmaeen Zarif (President, MedSoc).

In attendance: Dr Claire Michel, Dr Pooja Harijan.

21.1. Apologies

Dr Maria Goodall, Dr Paul Wilkinson

21.2. Membership

Mr Boyan Wang replaced Mr Christopher Mak as Faculty student representative.

Dr Paul Wilkinson was appointed as the new Clinical Dean, replacing Dr Diana Wood who has stepped down from the role.

The Chair welcomed the new members to the Committee and thanked the retiring members for their contributions.

21.3. Declarations of interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

21.4. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2020 were circulated and approved.

21.5. Meeting administration

It was agreed that as several members had issues with Teams software future meetings should be conducted using Zoom.

21.6. Matters Arising

21.6.1. Proposal for determination of class boundaries (20.10)

These would be discussed as part of the MVST review reported under item 21.7 below.

21.7. Curriculum Review for MedST and VetST

Dr Claire Michel presented plans for a review of the MedSt and VetST courses. There was a plan to update the course content and reduce workload. An aim was also to make the course more clinically relevant whilst retaining its depth of science knowledge. As part of this GMC and RCVS requirements would be considered. It was planned to have a proposal ready for October 2021 for discussion by the relevant Faculty Boards – it was clarified that it was not intended to implement any changes by this time. The exact timing of implementing any changes would depend on the progress of the working groups although it was hoped to start implementing at least some changes from October 2022.

Ultimately it was hoped that following this review there would be more frequent reviews of discrete elements of the course.

There were several sub-groups:

The Course Content working group - to discuss workload, integration between pre-clinical courses, missing and redundant content, and other universities' curricula.

The Clinical Integration working group - to discuss how to integrate clinical content in the pre-clinical curriculum and convey the relevance of pre-clinical content for clinical practice.

The Delivery Methods and Practicals working group - to discuss delivery methods, including technology-enabled learning and practicals.

The Exams working group – to discuss diversifying assessment, examination rationalisation and paper integration.

Prof Williams clarified that the RCVS did not accredit individual components of the course but were more concerned with the course as a whole. It would need to be considered how any new/revised course would map onto RCVS requirements.

Further reports would be made to the Committee on the progress of the review. In the meantime members were welcome to contact Dr Michel at any time.

21.8. Preparing for Patients course update

Dr Pooja Harijan attended to report to the Committee on the PFP course.

During 2020-21 responses to virtual learning was generally very positive. It was planned to return to face-to-face teaching from October 2021 as government/University policy allowed for modules A, B and D. For module C a literature review had been asked of students in 2020-21, and it was planned to retain this in 2021-22. It should be possible to make a decision by the start of Easter term. For PFPD the Management Committee was considering the types of patient that could be utilised.

21.9. Course Management Committee minutes

Course Management Committee/Student Consultative Committee minutes were reported for the following meetings:

| Course | Meeting | Summary of activity |
|--------|---|---|
| FEBP | Course Management Committee 18/11/20 | Generally positive feedback especially having recorded lectures that could be referred to again. Some reports of difficulty engaging with online teaching. Would be requesting an increase in seminar time from one hour per term to two hours following feedback that more small group teaching time was necessary. Considering some changes to the exam format but likely to stick with 15 machine-marked questions. Would add a second year student representative to provide retrospective views on the course. |
| FAB | Feedback meeting 4/12/20 | Students were very happy with the practical sessions being made available. It was clarified that student case presentations were for students to develop their presentation skills among other things – this would be made clearer at the introductory session. Some issues with keeping to time on Zoom sessions. Two more demonstrators would be made available for each DR session. Discussed the possibility of using An@tomedia on a long-term basis – generally thought to be useful but some feedback had been received suggesting some students were getting 'lost in the content'. Students were directed to the FAQ on the Moodle site for information on preparing for sessions. The DR sessions were very valuable, online streaming was not possible due to technical limitations. Table groups should meet up via Teams. |
| HNA | Feedback meeting 4/12/20 | Some students turning up late in spite of clear instructions to the DR and had to be turned away – students were reminded of the need for good time management. Zoom sessions were helpful but some found the amount of information initially overwhelming. An@tomedia was seen as useful but many students had expressed a preference for hardcopy textbooks – hopefully attitudes would change with greater familiarity. The DR practical sessions were greatly welcomed by students but under current restrictions sessions could not be rescheduled for students who had missed them. High quality photographs were available on the Moodle site for revision, and prosection videos were found by students to be useful. Students with impaired hearing should apply to the DRC for captioning software to be used with online lectures. |

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| MoDA | 2/12/20 | Discussed format of lectures – some needed a little more context and some slides could be synced with the content better. Feedback on case studies was very good and students would like these to cover more material. Practical class feedback was good but there were some technical issues with the software. Suggestion that subjects covered in MoDA align better with other courses e.g. BoD immunology. |
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Course Organisers were reminded to send copies of Course Management and Student Consultative Committee minutes to the secretary.

21.10. Examinations in 2020-21

The rescheduled resit examinations had run in January 2021. The end of Lent term examinations were to be run exclusively online – the vets would be running an online invigilation system via Zoom.

For the main examination periods Easter 2021 would be run as online examinations in formats as closely resembling the normal examinations as possible and would include 2nd MB/Vet MB papers and Tripos papers. It was still hoped that these would be run as in-person invigilated examinations in central facilities. Depending on the pressure on time and space resources some or all these papers may be run in this way. However, the University had estimated that at most 80% of students would be resident in Cambridge during the Easter examination period and it was likely that a proportion of candidates would be sitting examinations from remote locations and these would need to be accommodated.

The plans for the examinations had been discussed at length in the MVST student focus group. Senior Examiners had also met to discuss the plans and had taken into account student comments.

With respect to in-person examinations the University was adopting a 'wait-and-see' approach where central advice would await government policy.

In-person teaching for some MedST and VetST courses had been authorized, and students had been given the option of returning to Cambridge to attend these elements. It was stressed that this was not additional material and students who could not attend in-person would not be disadvantaged in the examinations.

Some students were concerned about the Tripos examinations and asked that students be given a very clear steer on what they should revise for.

Further updates on examinations would be released as more information became available.

21.11. Teaching 1st Year Vets - Animal Handling Assessments

Prof Williams reported on additional vet sessions. These had been scheduled to give veterinary students practice in animal handling – some would have to be given in the Easter term. They were necessary to

ensure that all students had the appropriate training before they went on to their EMS placements.

Zoom invigilation would be used for the end of Lent term veterinary examinations. This would be needed for the Easter examinations if they could not be run in person.

21.12. Student Topics

These had been covered in item 21.10.

21.13. Items for report

21.14. Changes to regulations – SECHI (20.27.1)

It was noted that the change to the examination format for SECHI from a 90-minute paper to two 3000 word submitted coursework essays had been approved by the Faculty Board of Biology and was now with ASEC.

21.15. Changes to psychology teaching in the NST

MVSTI.21.01 was circulated with proposed changes to the teaching of psychology in the Natural Sciences Tripos. The Senior Tutor's Education Committee have asked the MVST Part I Committee for comments as they feel there may be implications for medical and veterinary students. The proposals have already been approved by the Biological Sciences Committee and the Faculty Board of Biology.

The Committee raised no further issues with these proposals.

21.16. Any Other Business

21.16.1. European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)

The EAEVE were planning to recommend that vets should have some form of teacher training. There may be some push back to this from veterinary schools. The Department of Physiology, Development and Neuroscience had looked into this in the past using external trainers, but there would be a cost to this. If this did become an EAEVE requirement it was recommended that the University make its own bespoke course.

21.17. Dates of Meetings for 2020-21

A further MVSTI Committee meeting was scheduled for 2pm on 6 July.