

# Minutes from June 2021 virtual BoS

Virtual BoS, online comments/approval process (no live meeting)

No live BoS meeting was held, instead papers were made available to all members for comment, and were reviewed by the DDoLT (Curriculum) and DDoLT.

## [24032021\\_BoS Items 3a and 3b. Informatics Experiential Learning Courses \(IEL-8, IEL-10\)](#)

Full course proposals for these courses were submitted, along with a paper explaining how they will fit into the DPTs.

No comments or questions were received.

**Outcome:** approved

**Action:** ISS to create the new courses

**Action:** ISS to update the DPTs as specified in the paper

## [01062021\\_BoS Item 1. Assessment updates](#)

Due to the continuing effects of the pandemic, all courses which updated assessment for AY 20/21, or which did not run in AY 20/21, were required to submit a form indicating whether assessment updates were required for AY 21/22, and if so, what.

The submitted forms, together with comments and a record of approval, are available here:

<https://uoe.sharepoint.com/:x/s/InformaticsTeachingSupport/EZaQNXh4kyVOpiuMQSBMUqABnR0OZeGaDtpFIH77uT3KiQ>

Course organizers had been asked to consider how to reduce the pressure on students and staff due to the increase in coursework that occurred in 20/21, while also considering the online exam format.

Of courses that did not run in 20/21, about half proposed to keep the same assessment as in 19/20, and about half proposed updates (typically to reduce the exam weight somewhat.)

Of courses that did run in 20/21, very few wished to revert entirely to the 19/20 assessment. Some proposed to keep the 20/21 assessment, while others have proposed something in between (typically reducing the number of courseworks relative to 20/21).

The spreadsheet column P indicates whether comments/questions were received on each proposal; if so, the comments can be viewed on the proposal document itself (linked from column F).

Comments and questions were resolved through discussion with the Course Organisers, and the proposals updated as needed. Many just required clarification, but in some cases COs were asked to modify their plans to reduce either the number of deadlines or the amount of time assumed for coursework.

Comments on two courses are highlighted here:

- **Computer Security:** The proposal was to keep the 50% cw/50% exam weighting from 20/21. However, SG and BF were concerned about ongoing issues with the coursework mark distribution, where nearly all students receive 100% on the coursework. This fails to discriminate between students and does not align with the Common Marking Scheme. For this reason, the proposal was not approved as submitted. The coursework weight has been

set to 25% (as in 19/20), and the course organiser has been asked to submit a concrete proposal for how the marking issues will be addressed. If this is received before the start of AY 21/22, the coursework weight can be adjusted back to 50%.

- **Computer Communications and Networks:** The proposal was to keep the 100% cw weighting from 20/21. However, this course also had very high marks in 20/21 which are not in line with the Common Marking Scheme, including some courseworks where most students got 100%. The proposal has been conditionally approved, on agreement that the instructors will re-design the courseworks, and the mark distribution will be re-examined after the next BoE before re-approving for delivery the following year.

The convenor notes that several other courses (especially in UG3) were also well out of line with CMS. Due to the late timing of the BoE meeting with respect to these proposals, it was not possible to raise all of these issues with COs in time to deal with here. However, all COs are encouraged to seriously consider the grade inflation problem for 21/22, and the School will be pursuing the issue further with the worst offenders.

**Outcome:** all changes approved, except as noted below.

**Outcome:** the proposal for **Computer Security** was **not approved**, and the course will revert to 25% coursework until a concrete plan is received and approved.

**Outcome:** the proposal for **Computer Communications and Networks** was **conditionally approved**.

**Action:** ISS to update all course descriptors

**Action:** Myrto Arapinis to submit a plan to DoLT for re-designing the CS cw and/or marking scheme.

**Action:** COMN instructors to re-designing the cw and/or marking scheme

**Action:** UG3 BoE convenor to report back to BoS in June 2022 regarding COMN mark distribution.