**Director of Teaching Report 10 Dec 2008-12-10**

1. **Accreditation and review:** The School was the subject of a Teaching Programme Review in November with four external reviewers. The review was very positive and identified a few weaknesses we can repair easily. The final review document will be available early in the New Year. Thanks to Murray Cole and Neil McGillivray for their work in preparation for this meeting. We have a BCS accreditation meeting in March and we anticipate a successful review.

2. **Mathematics Teaching:** In the 2007-8 session we saw a significant rise in MfI2 and MfI4 failure rates. We have had some discussions with School of Mathematics and have not identified any potential cause for the change. The TPR recommended we consider teaching Mathematics to Informatics students. I see this as an opportunity to review the structure of our Mathematics provision. I have asked Stephen Gilmore to lead a small group to report back to Teaching Committee at its next (or next but one meeting). We have polled students on whether they would like additional support for Mathematics in second semester and the response has been overwhelmingly positive.

3. **+2 MInf proposal:** The TPR team suggested we implement a Bologna-style 3+2 structure for our MInf with the potential for students to complete the last two years of the degree as a 2-year taught Masters.

4. **Service Courses:** our service courses are looking rather dated and are becoming less attractive to external students. I would like to set up a small group to review provision and bring a range of proposals to the next (but one?) Teaching Committee.

5. **Feedback:** as we are now all aware, the National Student Survey clearly identified student issues with promptness and quality of feedback on student work. ITO have been monitoring the turnaround and return of coursework and it appears that there has been a significant improvement in promptness and many examples of good practice in providing feedback on student work.

6. **InfBase:** this is now running 2-3 hours per day Mon-Thurs. Students appear to like InfBase (though they want to change the name to iBase) and are making increasing use of InfBase.

7. **Recruitment Issues:** we saw a drop in numbers of Home and Overseas students on the MSc and a rise in numbers on the Undergraduate degrees. We believe this arose because of staff losses over the critical period in the run up to the new Academic Year and in the economic climate. We aim to restore numbers on the MSc in AY 2009-10.

8. **EUCLID:** this project is currently rolling out Postgraduate Admissions and is focussing on preparing for the roll-out of the Assessment application. This will have a significant impact on the operation of teaching over the next year. This will include changes to the structure of course descriptors and programme descriptions.