Taught Programme Review 2014/15 – Preliminary Consultation
Michael Rovatsos, Teaching Committee, 12th March 2014

Our Taught Programme Review (TPR), normally held every five years, and a formal element of the University’s Quality Assurance Framework, will take place in February-March 2015. The TPR itself involves the formal submission of an Analytical Report (together with a broad range of additional documentation) from the School to the Review Panel, and a two-day visit from the Panel to the School. Engagement of all staff and students with the Review is an integral part of the process.

Critical comments from the previous review mainly concerned the following items:
- Lack of induction and training for new teaching staff
- Lack of training and guidance for teaching support providers
- Weaknesses in management structure to address problems fast
- Decline in numbers of domestic students
- Lack of uniformity in student experience with Directors of Studies
- Need for curriculum review, especially Years 3-5 and breadth of programmes
- Lack of engagement of many staff in teaching strategy and debate
- Need to widen access to MInf through entry to higher years
- Better monitoring of student performance and failure rates in Years 1 and 2
- Review of Maths teaching and possibility of in-house offerings
- Concerns about feedback and assessment load
- Lack of broad enough dissemination of course surveys and use in promotions process

Many of these items have been addressed since the last TPR, and the School has undergone major changes since that time.

The Committee is asked to feed into the planning process for the next TPR by (a) highlighting achievements and deficiencies in how we have addressed the above, (b) suggesting items on which we want to solicit specific input from the panel, (c) identifying issues where we may receive praise and critique in the review, and (d) providing ideas for engagement of various groups of stakeholders in the process.