



Meeting
Place
Date

BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Microsoft Teams
Thursday 19 November 2020 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook	Dean of Science (Chair)
	Dr R Bradford	Department of Computer Science
	Dr Z Burke	Department of Biology and Biochemistry (alternate for Professor D Tosh)
	Professor A Burrows	Head of Department of Chemistry
	Mr T Cheung	PGT student representative
	Dr S Flower	Department of Chemistry
	Dr N Fotaki	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Professor M Fraser	Department of Computer Science
	Professor C Frost	Deputy Dean of Science
	Professor M Hejmadi	Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching)
	Dr R James	Head of Department of Physics
	Professor M Jones	Department of Chemistry
	Professor T Mays	Faculty of Engineering and Design
	Professor N McHugh	Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Professor P Milewski	Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Dr A Preston	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Professor J Sivaloganathan	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Dr J White	Head of Natural Sciences
	Professor C Wilson	Associate Dean (Research)
	Mr J Withington	UG student representative
	Dr M Wright	Department of Computer Science
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)
	Mrs S Paine	Programmes Manager (Operations) (Observer)
	Mrs T Buckley	Programmes Officer (Observer)
	Ms P Gabriel	Programmes Officer (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset	Learning Partnerships Office
	Dr A Gorbach	Department of Physics
	Ms A L Harper	Faculty of Science (Observer)
	Miss F Jackson	Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community)
	Dr F Qin	School of Management
	Dr T Shardlow	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Dr G Stothart	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
	Professor D Tosh	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Professor S Ward	Associate Dean (International)

Action

7055 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Board noted an addition to the Standing Orders for Senate and its Committees, i.e. Board of Studies, on disclosure of individual Conflicts of Interest (Paper 30).
See SO 7 (ix) at:

<https://www.bath.ac.uk/corporate-information/standing-orders-of-senate/>

Members confirmed there were no declarations of interest regarding items of the agenda.

7056 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 30 September 2020 (Paper 31), and there were no matters arising.

7057 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed Mr T Cheung, new Postgraduate Taught student representative (MSc Data Science).

The Chair reported the following matters:

- At the first meeting of the Faculty Employer Advisory Board last week employers reported that while graduates possessed peer-to-peer teamwork skills they were less able to adapt to teamwork in a hierarchical structure. An action plan arising from the meeting will be considered by the Faculty and will enable more detailed discussion at the next Advisory Board meeting in February 2021.
- REF: Units of Assessment (UoAs) that were either red or amber-red in the traffic light system had submitted interim documentation. Improvement was achieved as reflected in the reassessment; the Chair thanked colleagues for their efforts in developing a number of new impact case studies over the summer, and for refining existing ones. The Chair reminded HoDs of the deadline for the quasi-final documentation for the Faculty of 1 December 2020. Following submission there will be a discussion within the Faculty and with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research).
- Assessment and Feedback: This has been an issue across the University, and Faculty, for a number of years. Our NSS ratings have not changed much so there is a major push at institutional and Faculty level to improve. Faculty Executive agreed the need to reduce assessment by 20% over the next few years, publish clear assessment timetables and criteria for all units, consider simplification of lab marking, make more effective use of peer-to-peer feedback and require students to reflect on, and respond to, feedback in the criteria for future assessments. Professor Hejmadi is taking these initiatives forward through FLTQC. The Chair highlighted the need for radical change in order to achieve improved student satisfaction.

Dr J White suggested that working with students from the outset to explore how they can obtain feedback from a variety of sources is likely to have a greater impact on student satisfaction than reducing assessment, which will reduce feedback opportunities, and increasing peer-to-peer feedback. The Chair explained that reducing assessment will allow feedback to be more extensive and delivered in a timely manner and will provide students with greater time to reflect on feedback before the next assessment. Student feedback on peer-to-peer feedback has been that it allows them to view feedback more objectively which in turn aids understanding.

- The Department of Biology and Biochemistry has achieved Athena Swan Silver award. The Chair thanked colleagues for their efforts in developing the documentation and action plan.
- New Research Ethics have been developed which will involve the establishment of an Ethics Board for Biomedical Sciences and Data Science.
- The increased workload of bringing teaching online has been recognised in the Workload Model, as reflected in changed tariffs.
- OfS survey of the usefulness of NSS: The Chair acknowledged that members may have made individual responses to the survey and reported the University's response which is supportive of the current format; NSS is viewed as a light-touch mechanism to collect valuable information that has guided programme design over the years. The survey closed last week and OfS findings are expected before Christmas.

Dr J White highlighted the work involved in encouraging students to engage with NSS. The Chair agreed but flagged the benefits the feedback brings to improving course delivery. The Chair explained that the University has concerns that if NSS is scrapped the OfS might introduce a more burdensome alternative.

7058 MEMBERSHIP OF BOARDS OF EXAMINERS FOR UNITS (BEU) AND PROGRAMMES (BEP) FOR 2020/21

The Board approved the proposed BEU and BEP membership for the following Departments:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry (Paper 33).

Department of Chemistry (Paper 34).

Department of Computer Science (Paper 35).

Learning Partnerships Office (Paper 36).

Department of Mathematical Sciences (Paper 37):

Professor P Milewski flagged that a newly appointed External Examiner had recently died so the Department was in the process of identifying a temporary alternative for this year.

Natural Sciences (Paper 38):

The Board noted that it had been agreed that MA10201 and MA10202 should remain with the Maths BEU which would be amended accordingly.

Secretary's note: The Maths BEU was updated accordingly after the meeting.

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (Paper 39).

Department of Physics (Paper 40).

7059 2020/21 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

Mr J Withington commented that it appeared from some of the memberships that placement students were not well represented.

Secretary's note: After the meeting the programmes on which students were registered were checked and amended as required to indicate where these were placement or Study Year Abroad variants (documentation updated in BSS Boards).

The Board approved the SSLC terms of reference and membership for the following Departments:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 41):

Dr A Preston reported that the Department had experienced difficulty in identifying Biomedical Sciences Reps.

PGT programmes (Paper 42).

Department of Chemistry

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 43):

Professor A Burrows highlighted that three students listed as enrolled on Chemistry with Management programmes are in fact registered on MChem Chemistry. The membership should also include Nat Sci Reps.

Secretary's note: This was corrected immediately following the meeting.

Department of Computer Science

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 44).

PGT programmes (Paper 45).

MSc online programmes (Paper 46):

Dr M Wright explained that all students are members of their online MSc programme SSLC. Three SSLC forums are held a year, each open for a week (given that students are studying at a distance and in different time-zones). An agenda is posted on a forum and all students are invited to provide feedback.

Learning Partnerships Office

FdSc and BSc (Hons) Applied Computing (licensed), and International Foundation Year

(licensed), delivered by Bath College (Paper 47).

Department of Mathematical Sciences

Undergraduate and PGT programmes (Paper 48).

The Board noted that there were no Academic Reps for the PGT programmes.

Natural Sciences

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 49).

Dr J White reported that efforts would be made to identify a non-placement final year student. Dr J White commented that the SU Academic Rep election process had been slow and suggested that elections for continuing students be held in Semester 2 of the preceding year. Mr J Withington agreed to take this recommendation back to the SU and to report back at the next BoS meeting. Professor M Hejmadi commented that the SU had new staff starting this year which could have contributed to delays.

**UG student
rep**

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 50).

PGT programmes (Paper 51).

Department of Physics

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 52).

Dr R James commented that the SU Academic Rep election process had slowed the identification of SSLC student rep members.

7060 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

Department of Computer Science PGT 20 July (Paper 58A) and August/October (online MSc) (Paper 58B) 2020.

Natural Sciences 11 November 2020 (Paper 59).

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology PGT 11 August 2020 (Paper 60).

7061 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.



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	Professor D Tosh	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Professor S Ward	Associate Dean (International)

Action

7062 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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7063 REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board received details of awards accepted by Research and Innovation Services from 23 September until 11 November 2020 (Paper 32).

The Chair congratulated in particular:

- Professor Jason Alexander, Department of Computer Science, for his award of £1,185,051 from the European Research Council for research into Force-Responsive Deformable User Interfaces. The Chair welcomed Professor Alexander as a new member of the University.
- Dr Philippe Trinh, Department of Mathematical Sciences, for his award of £361,081 from the EPSRC for research into Exponential Asymptotics for Multi-dimensional Systems in Fluid Mechanics.

7064 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 16 September (Paper 53A) and 14 October (Paper 53B) 2020.

7065 FACULTY LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2020 (Paper 54).

7066 FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2020 (Paper 55).

7067 FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020 (Paper 56).

7068 FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE (FDSC)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 15 October 2020 (Paper 57).

7069 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.