

FLTQC 15 March 2023

Wednesday, 15th March 2023 2:15 pm

Teams | Faculty of Science Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee

Attendees

Attended

Elizabeth Beaven

Andrew Burrows (Chair)

Alexander Cox

Susan Crennell

Marguerite Hallett

Fabio Nemetz

Sarah Paine

Shehij Raina

Philip Rogers

Tony Shardlow

Dushmanthi Shermer

Paul Snow

Christopher Todd

Did Not Attend

Florin Bisset

Elizabete Francmane

Julia Kildyushova

Stephen Ward

Zidong Zhao

1.0 Welcome and Quorum (3175)

The Chair welcomed members and attendees and noted that 9 members were in attendance. The meeting is quorate if one-third of the membership is present (5 members). The meeting was therefore quorate. The Committee welcomed the newly appointed Associate Dean (Education) as Chair. The Committee noted that the Associate Dean (Education) would also remain as Head of the Department of Chemistry until the end of the academic year.

2.0 Declaration of Interest (3176)

There were no declarations of potential conflicts of interest.

3.0 New Programme Proposal (3177)

Purpose - For Approval

The Committee considered, for Stage Two Full Approval, a proposal for a new MSc Financial Mathematics with Data Science degree, in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Professor Alex Cox presented this item.

Professor Cox explained that the aim of the new programme was to teach students with a relatively wide range of backgrounds, mathematical and data science tools needed to pursue careers in quantitative roles in finance. The target market is a fairly broad range of students with quantitative backgrounds, who have not necessarily completed Maths degrees. The new programme will sit alongside 2 other MSc programmes with large Data Science components in the Department: MSc Mathematics with Data Science for Industry and MSc Data Science and Statistics (Health), with which some units will be shared. 30 credits of the new MSc are existing, and 30 credits are new, plus a new 30 credit project unit.

The Committee considered the following documentation:

- Summary paper, including extracts of BoS, APC and DLTQC minutes and comments on the resulting changes (Paper 83):

The Chair enquired as to what was meant by 'rocking tutorial'. Professor Cox explained that it meant running a tutorial in one week for one of the units, and then running another tutorial in the next week for the other units, to make timetabling simpler.

The Chair enquired as to when the 2 new members of staff would be recruited. Professor Cox explained that they would be recruited for 2023/24 to start preparing the units.

- QA3.1 Resource Implications (Paper 84).
- QA44 Annex B Course Specification (Paper 85):

The Chair noted that unit MA50261 Research Project Preparation would be shared with MSc Data Science and Statistics (owned by Comp Sci) and MSc Data Science and Statistics (Health) (owned by Maths), yet it requires a 'detailed literature review in a chosen area of computer science research'. The Chair suggested that this be changed to make the unit more appropriate for the Maths MSc programmes. Professor Cox reported that this was being actioned.

- Course Proposal Report (from Curriculum Planner) (Paper 86).
- QA3.3 Market Information (Paper 87).
- QA3.4 Course Intended Learning Outcome mapping (Paper 88).
- QA3.5 Assessment mapping (Paper 89):

The Chair noted that 2 large reports (70% and 100% weighted) were due in Week 11 of Semester 2. The Chair suggested bringing one of them forward by a week or moving one of them back into the examination week (given there are only 2 exams). **Action: Professor Cox**
Secretary's note: Following the meeting it was confirmed that this would be reviewed as part of Curriculum Transformation.

New Unit Descriptions:

- MA50290 Applied Machine Learning (Paper 90):

The Committee noted that this unit had recently been approved as part of the MSc Data Science and Statistics (Health) degree due to start in 2023/24.

- MA50291 Programming for Data Science (Paper 91):

The Committee noted that this unit had recently been approved as part of the MSc Data Science and Statistics (Health) degree due to start in 2023/24.

The Chair noted that the MA50290 and MA50291 units had been approved for 25 students and enquired as to whether the units were scalable to be taught to 50 students. Professor Cox explained that the units were scalable in that they are largely taught and it would be possible to accommodate the additional students for the lab components.

- Risk, Randomness and Optimisation (Paper 92):

The Committee noted that this new Semester 1 unit was an introductory or broad level unit to give students skills in a range of mathematical tools that they will need throughout the programme.

- Discrete Time Finance (Paper 93):

The Committee noted that this new Semester 1 unit involved building certain discrete time models for modelling various financial components.

- Advanced Mathematics and Data Science Techniques for Finance (Paper 94):

The Committee noted that this new Semester 2 unit explores a range of different current issues which require mathematical or data science tools to examine particular aspects of interest in finance.

- Continuous Time Finance (Paper 95):

The Committee noted that this new Semester 2 unit builds on the Semester 1 Discrete Time Finance unit, by providing tools for building continuous time in financial models.

- Monte Carlo Methods for Finance (Paper 96):

The Committee noted that this new Semester 2 unit develops one of the common numerical tools for simulating and understanding risk.

- Dissertation (Paper 97):

The Chair enquired as to whether the unit title should be Dissertation or Project. Professor Cox reported that that unit title should be Project in line with MSc Mathematics with Data Science for Industry.

Secretary's note: The equivalent unit in the MSc Data Science and Statistics (Health) degree is named Dissertation.

The Chair requested that the programme documentation be reviewed to ensure consistency in terminology.

Action: Professor Cox.

Secretary's note: Following the meeting it was noted that the University's assessment taxonomy suggests 'Dissertation' should be used instead of 'Project'. The unit title change will be made in Curriculum Planner.

Dr Snow enquired as to the point at which students learned the fundamental concepts and terminology of finance. Professor Cox explained that while Semester 1 unit Risk, Randomness and Optimisation ensures that students have the mathematical backgrounds, this would be in the context of common utility maximisation or risk management type problems, e.g. risk measures, computation and optimisation. The unit would introduce the relevant terminology and the bigger picture of the different principles of finance. In addition, Semester 1 unit Discrete Time Finance would start to explore derivative pricing and introduce some of the associated terminology, which would be developed further in Semester 2 units Advanced Mathematics and Data Science Techniques for Finance and Continuous Time Finance. External speakers would also be brought in to help motivate some of the projects. Professor Cox explained that the overall focus of the course was on the mathematics, more than the finance, because that was what distinguished the course from finance and management degrees.

The Committee agreed to recommend to CPAC, for Stage Two Full Approval, the proposal for a new MSc Financial Mathematics with Data Science degree, in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, for commencement from 2024/25, subject to completion of the actions above.

4.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (3178)

Purpose - For Approval

The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee held on 25 January 2023 (Paper 76).

5.0 Matters Arising (3179)

There were no matters arising.

6.0 Chair's Business (3180)

The Chair brought the following matters to the attention of the Committee:

Chair's actions:

The Committee noted that Chair's action had been taken to approve the following:

- Special Programmes of Study / Assessment Arrangements (see Reserved business).
- Approval, for recommendation to CPAC for institutional endorsement, of the submission to the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) for reaccreditation of the undergraduate programmes in the Department of Chemistry from 2023/24 (CT version) (approved 7 February 2023) (Paper 77).
- Approval, for recommendation to EQSC, of the Education Annual Review and Enhancement (EARE) report 2022/23 for the Department of Chemistry (approved 2 February 2023) (Paper 78).
- Approval of LP00027 minor assessment change for Semester 1 2022/23 (approved 25 January 2023) (Paper 79).
- Retrospective approval of MA50183 assessment change for Semester 1 2022/23 (approved 17 February 2023) (Paper 80).
- Approval of MSc / Integrated PhD Molecular Biosciences (Medical Biosciences) intermediate programme change for 2023/24: replacement of XX50234, BB50249 and BB50250 with SL50205 (approved 24 February 2023) (Paper 81).

7.0 General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Reaccreditation (3181)

The Committee noted the GPhC reaccreditation (Part 1) report for the MPharm (Hons) Pharmacy 4-year degree from 2023/24 (CT version) (Paper 82). Dr Rogers reported that the points raised by the GPhC were as expected and it was a pleasing reaccreditation outcome. For Part 2, the Department will focus on the implementation of prescribing training and written examination standard setting, e.g. how to evidence that a student who has been awarded 40% has met the learning outcomes and does not pose a risk to the public, whereas a student who has been awarded 39% has not met the learning outcomes so is not safe. The Chair requested that DoTs email him and Dr Rogers their examination marking criteria for review. **Action: DoTs.**

8.0 Inspera Examinations Semester 1 Update (3182)

The Committee noted an update paper on Inspera examinations during Semester 1 (Paper 98).

9.0 Feedback from Committees (3183)

Courses and Partnerships Approval Committee (CPAC):

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2023 (Paper 99).

Education Advisory Board:

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2023 (Paper 100).

Student Experience Advisory Board:

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2023 (Paper 101).

Academic Programmes Committee (APC):

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2023, in particular Stage 1 Initial Approval of the proposal for a new MSc Financial Mathematics with Data Science degree, in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, for commencement from 2024/25 (Paper 102).

10.0 Department Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (DLTQC) Minutes (3184)

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

- Department of Life Sciences: 7 December 2022 (Paper 103).
- Department of Chemistry: 1 March 2023 (Paper 104).
- Department of Computer Science: 11 January (Paper 105A) and 1 March (Paper 105B) 2023.
- Learning Partnerships Office: 15 November 2022 (Programme and Partner Management Committee minutes, Bath College) (Paper 106).
- Department of Physics: 21 February 2023 (Paper 107).

11.0 Any Other Business (3185)

There was none.