
Meeting: BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL)
Date and Time: Thursday 2nd November 2017, 2.15pm
Venue: Wessex House Council Chamber

Present:

Prof Jonathan Knight	Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Prof Cathryn Mitchell	Academic Director of Doctoral College
Dr Sally Clift	Faculty Director of Doctoral Studies (E&D)
Dr Ian Walker	Associate Dean for Research (HSS)
Prof Bas Verplanken	Faculty Director of Doctoral Studies (HSS)
Prof Chick Wilson	Associate Dean for Research (SCI)
Dr Iain Davies	School Director of Doctoral Studies (MN)
Dr Ian Eggleston	Faculty Director of Doctoral Studies (SCI)
Mr Liam Emery	SU Postgraduate Officer

In Attendance:

Mr Simon Gane	Head of Doctoral Recruitment and Programmes
Dr Caroline McMurray	Quality Enhancement Officer for Doctoral Studies
Miss Ceri Dibble (Secretary)	Doctoral Programmes Officer

Not present: Prof Andrew Brown, Prof Davide Mattia

ACTION

25. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 5 October 2017 (Paper 21)
26. **MATTERS ARISING**
No matters arising
27. **CHAIR'S BUSINESS**
27.1 The Chair informed the Board that an appointment has been made to the post of Pro-Vice-Chancellor (International &

Doctoral) Professor Jeremy Bradshaw, currently at the University of Edinburgh, will be in post from February 2018. Professor Bradshaw will Chair Board of Studies (Doctoral) and take responsibility for all Doctoral matters but Prof Knight will still remain involved as deputy Chair.

27.2 The Chair took the Board through the details of the new agreement with the China Scholarship Council (CSC). Under the agreement, up to 10 new PhD scholarships will be supported jointly by the University and the CSC.. The Chair indicated that there will be CSC roadshows in four cities across China, and the plan is to ensure that the University is represented at these events.

27.3 The Chair gave details of a potential comprehensive agreement with the Paraguayan government, which could enable Paraguayan students to access government funding to come to Bath to do a PhD.. Professor Paul Milewski, Head of Department for Mathematical Sciences, has been instrumental in developing this relationship..

28.

PROPOSAL TO MERGE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT RESEARCH COMMITTEE AND SCHOOL DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE

28.1 The School Director of Doctoral Studies (Management) took the board through the proposal, which had been tabled due to the similarities in membership between the two committees. Each committee would have a separate secretary and continue to consider the business outlined in the respective terms of reference.

The Chair and the Faculty Director of Doctoral Studies (Science) argued that merging the committees was not necessary as they could be run consecutively. The Quality Enhancement Officer for Doctoral Studies also raised concerns over unreserved and reserved business overlapping between meetings. The Chair suggested that the meetings run consecutively within the allocated timeslot as opposed to merging the committees. The Board agreed.

29.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

29.1 The Head of Doctoral Recruitment and Programmes explained to the Board that concerns had been raised by Faculty Directors of Doctoral Studies and the Doctoral Programmes Officers that the high volume of progress reports were taking up a lot of time during the triaging process. A proposal to triage them via the Faculty Doctoral Studies Committees instead had been put forward. The Faculty Director of Doctoral Studies (E&D) had over 400 pages of progress reports to review for this board and it was not possible to look at them all in the time allocated for triaging. Additionally, the Directors of Studies at the E&D FDSC meeting raised the issue of retaining involvement, as they did with the previous governance structure. The Faculty Director of Doctoral Studies (H&SS) also experienced a similar volume and reminded the Board that a number of reports were raised at October Board of Studies (Doctoral) with minor concerns that he felt were more suitable for FDSC discussion. Major

concerns and problem cases would still come to BoSD but other concerns would be discussed with Directors of Studies at a lower level. The Faculty Director of Doctoral Study (Science) did not think that it was such a problem in Science but as he currently triages Doctoral business weekly he is not experiencing the same volume as the other FDDSs. As there was not consensus on whether a change should be made, the Chair proposed that a proposal for improving the system should be brought to the next Board of Studies (Doctoral) on 21 November 2017. The Academic Director of the Doctoral College suggested that the Data and Process Improvement Officer in the Doctoral College should be involved in putting the proposal together.

HDRP

The meeting finished at 2.50pm

Chair Date