

**Meeting:** BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL)

**Date and Time:** Tuesday 21st November 2017, 10.15am

**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 Andrew Brown	Associate Dean for Research (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
Ms Clarissa Bell	Research and Innovation Services

**Apologies:** Dr Iain Davies, Prof Chick Wilson, Prof Davide Mattia

		<b>ACTION</b>
<b>39.</b>	<b><u>MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING</u></b> The Board considered and approved the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2017 (Paper BSD1718-43)	
<b>40.</b>	<b><u>MATTERS ARISING</u></b> Minute 29.1 Any other Business (triaging progress reports): Ongoing – the Head of Doctoral Recruitment and Programmes (HDRP) will report back at a future meeting once a proposal has been formulated.	
<b>41.</b>	<b><u>CHAIR'S BUSINESS</u></b> 1 The Chair informed the Board that the successful functioning of the Doctoral College during its inaugural months of operation had been reported at staff meetings. The Chair conveyed his thanks to everyone involved with the Doctoral College for their contribution. 2 The Chair updated the Board on progress regarding Studentships.	

	<p>A call for EPSRC Doctoral Training Centres is imminent. Applications for studentships under the China Scholarship Council (CSC) will open soon. An agreement with the Paraguayan Government has been signed and will now be advertised.</p> <p>3 The Chair invited the Academic Director of the Doctoral College (ADDC) to summarise the University's response to the HEFCE call for bids to provide training in the area of Mental Health (deadline 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017). The Doctoral College will lead one bid, supported by Student Services and the Students' Union. The GW4 alliance will make a second bid, led by the University of Bristol.</p>	
42.	<p><b><u>STUDENTSHIP AGREEMENTS AND RESTRICTION OF ACCESS TO THESIS</u></b></p> <p>Clarissa Bell, a Solicitor working with the Contracts Team within Research and Innovation Services (RIS) presented a proposal put forward by the Head of Pre Award and Contracts that, in initial communications with external funders regarding studentship contract negotiations, the University adopts the following standard position:</p> <p>'where the company (acting reasonably) so requests', all thesis restriction requests of up to three years duration will be considered acceptable (Paper BDS1718-61).</p> <p>Ms Bell explained that more companies are looking to restrict access to theses in order to protect confidential results and commercially sensitive information, therefore RIS recommend including a standard clause in contracts in order to re-assure sponsors that such restrictions are potentially available, to avoid unnecessary delays to negotiations and assist RIS to operate with consistency.</p> <p>The Board were informed that if a company were to request a restriction of longer than three years, this request would be forwarded to the Board of Studies (Doctoral) to consider.</p> <p>The Board queried how many theses per year are being restricted. Ms Bell confirmed that RIS does not currently hold information on how many theses have been restricted under such agreements.</p> <p>The Quality Enhancement Officer for Doctoral Studies (QEODS) reminded the Board that all requests to restrict theses must be approved by the Board, and that any approvals of restrictions longer than three years must be reported to Senate.</p> <p>The Board queried what would constitute 'acting reasonably'. Ms Bell explained that the intention was that companies would have to justify to the University that the thesis would contain commercially sensitive material. Ms Bell stated that the wording suggested in the proposal could be revised if considered necessary. For example future contracts could include a requirement for companies to specify</p>	HDRP

	<p>the nature of their concerns regarding the information and why a restriction is necessary.</p> <p>The Board expressed concerns that companies might seek to prevent students from publishing their work in journal/book format in addition to asking for thesis restrictions.</p> <p>Ms Bell reiterated that RIS will always seek for students to be able to publish their work. As the University of Bath has charitable status, there is a duty to allow information to be released into the public domain for a wider benefit.</p> <p>The Board queried how students are informed of the restrictions relating the research project, if they are fully aware of their implications, and whether they are required to sign anything when they accept their offered place.</p> <p>Ms Bell confirmed that students sign a short Intellectual Property confidentiality agreement (as opposed to signing a contract).</p> <p>The Chair stated that the University needs certainty that there has been effective communication with the student regarding their obligations.</p> <p>ADDC summarised that if an expectation is to be established that a three year restriction will not be refused if the request is reasonable, then the University needs to ensure that the student is completely aware of the restriction and all that this entails.</p> <p>Ms Bell agreed that it would be sensible for the Doctoral College to include this information in the offer letter to the student.</p> <p>The Board agreed to the proposal, subject to the Doctoral College working with Research and Innovation Services to communicate details of restrictions to students and supervisors.</p>	<b>HDRP</b>
<b>43.</b>	<p><b><u>MEMBERSHIP OF BOARDS OF EXAMINERS FOR UNITS (BEUs) AND PROGRAMMES (BEPs) FOR 2017/18</u></b></p> <p>The Board approved the membership lists (Paper BDS1718-60)</p>	
<b>44</b>	<p><b><u>FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDENTS' COMMITTEE</u></b></p> <p>The Board noted receipt of the minutes of the meetings of the following Faculty Doctoral Students' Committees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Engineering and Design FDSC of 4 October 2017 (BDS1718-44)</li> <li>2 Science FDSC of 12 October 2017 (BDS1718-44)</li> <li>3 Humanities and Social Sciences FDSC of 19 October 2017 (BDS1718-44)</li> </ol> <p>The SU Postgraduate Officer (SUPO) queried progress towards enabling graduate teaching assistants to obtain formal teaching accreditation (minute 004 HSS FDSC).</p> <p>The Associate Dean for Research (H&amp;SS) confirmed that he will be contacting the Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching in the Faculty to pursue this.</p>	

45	<b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b> No other business	
	The meeting finished at 11am	
	Chair ..... Date .....	