
Meeting: ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY

Date and time: Wednesday 2nd November 2016 at 1.15 pm

Venue: CB2.6

Present: Dr A Salo (Chair)
and 37 members

Attending by invitation: Ms K Jordan, Ms L Humphreys, Ms H South

In attendance: Dr C Harris, Secretary to Academic Assembly

ACTION

622 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed members, particularly those who were new to the University. The Chair also welcomed Faculty Librarians who were invited to attend meetings and participate in debates but did not have voting rights.

623 MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Academic Assembly noted membership and terms of reference as set out on the web page: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/statutory-bodies-committees/academic/index.html>

The Chair advised that he can be contacted on: academic-assembly-chair@bath.ac.uk and that he would be available in the Claverton Rooms each Tuesday morning from 10am for discussion of any matters. He urged members to increase their engagement with the Academic Assembly.

624 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th May 2016 (Paper AA16/17-1) were approved and signed by the Chair.

625 CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING

Professor Andrew Heath, Academic Director for the new Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT), gave a presentation introducing the Centre. He explained that it replaced LTEO in support of the academic community, with quality management now under the Academic Registry.

He described how the CLT will work across the University to provide proactive support for key activities, for example TEF, as well as the wider learning experience, in four areas:

- Academic Staff Development
- Technology Enhanced Learning
- Student Engagement
- Curriculum Development, under which the quantity of assessment would be investigated.

During questions the following points were made:

- In five years' time the Academic Director expected there to be a reduction in assessment (which would improve both student and staff happiness), more PGT students and more efficient programmes in terms of staff time and resources. TEF would be introduced for PGT within a few years.
- Engaging with the student voice was important in order to improve NSS scores for assessment and feedback. It was fortunate that the current SU President was previously the SU Education Officer to assist.
- Researching other institutions with high NSS scores for assessment and feedback may provide an insight, though this can be affected by the amount of assessment and staff/student ratios.
- It was suggested that there was a link between quantity and quality of feedback and reducing the quantity would enable increases in quality, particularly where there are numerous similar assessments.
- It was queried whether employing more academics would improve the NSS scores for assessment and feedback but noted that staff/student ratios have not changed much despite an increase in students.
- The fairly low percentage of staff with a teaching qualification was queried. It was pointed out that there was a variation across departments and that departments that were growing quickly currently have more probationary staff, who will have qualifications in due course.

The Chair thanked the Academic Director of the CLT for his presentation.

626 ELECTIONS

Members of Academic Assembly noted the election of representatives to serve on Council, Senate and Awards Committee as set out in Paper AA16/17-2. It was pointed out that Dr Nassehi has left the University.

SEC

627 AWARDS COMMITTEE

Members confirmed the appointment of Dr Nigel Johnston as Academic Assembly representative on Awards Committee until 31st July 2019, proposed by Dr S Wharton and seconded by Dr S Gheduzzi.

628 **RELEVANT DECISIONS OF SENATE**

The Chair reminded members of Academic Assembly that reports of the meetings of Senate could be found at: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/statutory-bodies-committees/bodies-and-committees-senate/Senate/minutes/index.html>

He drew attention to:

- (1) Academic Awards 2016
- (2) Approval of new Education and Research strategies.

629 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 2nd May 2017 at 12.30 pm. This will be the Vice-Chancellor's statutory address.

The meeting concluded at 2.05 pm
