



Faculty of Engineering & Design

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**Meeting:** FACULTY BOARD OF STUDIES  
**Date and Time:** Wednesday 14 January 2015 at 2.15 pm  
**Venue:** 2 East 3.4

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**Present:**

Prof Gary Hawley (Chair) JGH	Dean
Dr Tom Arnot	Dept. of Chemical Engineering
Dr Ivan Astin	Dept of Electronic & Electrical Engineering
Dr Florin Bissett	Learning Partnerships Office
Dr Sally Clift	Associate Dean – Graduate Studies
Dr Jos Darling	Dept of Mechanical Engineering
Dr Adrian Evans	Dept of Electronic & Electrical Engineering
Dr Mark Evernden	Dept of Arch & Civil Engineering
Mr Paul Goodstadt	Education Officer, Students' Union
Mr Jack Hawker	Postgrad Taught Rpresentative (Civil Eng)
Prof Tim Ibell	Associate Dean - Research
Prof Tony Miles	Dept of Mechanical Engineering
Prof Rob Scheichl	Dept. of Mathematics, Faculty of Science
Dr Peter Shepherd	Dept of Electronic & Electrical Engineering
Professor Pete Walker	Dept of Arch & Civil Engineering
Mr Matthew Wickens	Dept of Arch & Civil Engineering
Dr Mike Wilson	Dept of Mechanical Engineering

**In Attendance:** Mrs Rachel Summers Faculty Assistant Registrar

**Apologies:** Apologies for absence were received from Mr Nikhil Bhalla, Dr Emma Brandon Jones, Dr Steve Cayzer, Dr Andrew Heath, Dr Nigel Johnston, Dr Tim Mays, Dr Marcelle McManus, Ms Charlotte Russell.

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**ACTION**

**898 WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

The Chair welcomed Jack Hawker (postgraduate taught student representative) to the Board. Apologies as detailed above were noted.

**899 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (FE2014-15/067)**

The unreserved minutes of the meeting of the Board of Studies held on 19 November 2014 were approved with corrections to minute 875 to read '*Despite running two rounds of elections to appoint PGT representatives, positions on the Faculty PGT SSLC had not been filled and Departments and the Graduate School were actively working with the Students' Union in promoting the PGT SSLC to students in order to encourage participation*'. The action upon Mr Goodstadt was also clarified to read '*regarding the number/function of additional staff members on*

SSLC who are listed as 'in attendance'.

## **900 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

The Chair updated the Board on the excellent Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014 results. Across the University, 32% of the submitted research activity achieved the highest possible REF classification of 4\*, defined as world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 87% was graded 4\*/3\*, defined as world-leading/internationally excellent. In the Aeronautical, Mechanical, Chemical & Manufacturing Engineering unit of assessment the Faculty moved back into the top ten and was ranked first in the UK for Architecture, Built Environment & Planning. In the Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Metallurgy & Materials unit of assessment 91% of our research activity was graded as either world-leading or internationally excellent. The Dean noted that the University had achieved an overall grade point average (GPA) of 3.17 (up from 2.7 in the previous exercise). Based on these results, we are placed 13th in the research quality ranking of UK universities, excluding specialist institutions. The Faculty is already preparing for the next round of REF in 2020 having held a REF Away Day earlier in January. A further away day is scheduled for February with a focus on sharing best practice and the development of expertise in the presentation of the Faculty's research activity. The Chair advised that generic job descriptions for the academic job family would shortly be published, following an extensive period of consultation.

## **901 FACULTY LEARNING TEACHING & QUALITY COMMITTEE MINUTES (FE2014-15/071a and 72a)**

The unreserved minutes of the Faculty Learning Teaching & Quality Committee meetings held on 22 October and 26 November 2014 were received and noted.

## **902 FACULTY RESEARCH STUDENTS COMMITTEE MINUTES (FE2014-15/074)**

The unreserved minutes of the Faculty Research Students Committee meeting held on 16 December 2014 were received and noted.

## **903 FACULTY GRADUATE SCHOOL COMMITTEE (FE2014-15/075)**

The unreserved minutes of the Graduate School Committee held on 15 December 2014 were received and noted.

## **904 REPORTS FROM ASSOCIATE DEANS & DEPARTMENTS**

a) Professor Walker (HoD Architecture & Civil Eng.) reported that interviews had been held before Christmas for a new senior lecturer position and an offer of appointment had been made. Dr John Orr has been shortlisted for an EPSRC Fellowship – interviews are due to be held in February. Professor Walker congratulated Professor Tim Ibell on becoming the 95th President of the Institution of Structural Engineers for 2015 – his inaugural address will take place on Friday 23 January at the Institution's new headquarters in London.

b) Professor Ibell (Associate Dean Research) reiterated the Dean's comments on the REF results and confirmed that the 2020 Faculty REF team would be launched at an Away Day event on the 10 February. The Away Day will focus on training REF team members on how to evaluate and differentiate quality in research papers and outputs which are under consideration for inclusion in the next REF

submission.

c) Professor Miles (HoD Mechanical Eng.) congratulated Dr Andy Rhead who has just been awarded his first research grant as PI. Professor Miles welcomed Professor Jamie Turner who will be joining the Department as Professor of Engines and Energy Systems and congratulated colleagues in the Department who had recently been promoted – Dr Andy Hillis and Dr Chris Bannister to Senior Lecturer; Dr Alicia Kim to Reader. The Dept. had re-advertised a position in the ‘design’ area at Senior Lecturer grade rather than as a Professorial appointment, having been unable to fill the post at that level.

d) Dr Arnot (Chem Eng) reported on behalf of Dr Mays (HoD). The Department has recently held interviews for three new academic positions in the area of ‘water’ and two appointments have been made. Dr Jannis Wenk has taken up the post of Lecturer and Professor Jan Hofman will join the Department in March. The Department is currently shortlisting applicants for the second lecturer position. Dr Arnot welcomed new lecturer Dr Caroline McFarlane who is taking on the role of Director of Studies for the Department’s distance learning activities from the 1 February. Congratulations were passed on to Dr Davide Mattia on his Fellowship of the IChemE. Dr Arnot reported that UG applications for 2015 entry were currently up by 46% (home/EU) and 6% (OS). The Dean queried whether the Department was considering raising its entry tariffs – Dr Arnot advised that the Department may do so for the 2016 recruitment cycle. The Dept. recruits to both BEng and MEng awards and applies the same entry tariff – the majority of BEng students subsequently decide to transfer to the MEng programme. Dr Arnot advised that the Department is currently preparing its submission for the renewal of the accreditation of its UG provision by the IChemE.

e) Dr Evans (HoD Electronic & Electrical Eng) reported that interviews had been held recently for a Chair position and an offer had been made. The Senior Lecturer/Director of Studies position in the area of Electrical Power Engineering has proved difficult to recruit to and remains vacant. Dr Evans congratulated Dr Simon Le Blond for his recent success in securing a large award from Innovate UK (£240k subject to contract).

f) Dr Clift (Associate Dean Graduate Studies) reported that two travel grants for PGR students, each worth £250, had been awarded to the Faculty by the Alumni Fund. Dr Clift was pleased to report that the Faculty’s PGT and PGR SSLCs had now been fully established with the appropriate level of student representation and both had elected students to the role of Chair. Dr Clift reported on her recent attendance at a HEFCE briefing on the postgraduate support scheme (PSS) arrangements for the 15/16 and those to be introduced from 16/17 onwards. The PSS funding is intended to benefit students who will complete their undergraduate degrees before the postgraduate loan system is introduced from 2016 and to support widening participation by individuals who might not otherwise study a Masters degree. In order to be eligible for a PSS award, students will need to be a current UK or EU undergraduate student and have paid the higher rate of tuition fee, introduced in 2012-13. They will also need to be from a background that is under-represented. The University will receive 74 awards from HEFCE to be matched by equal funding on the part of the University to fund awards of £10k per student recipient. Awards will be available across all subject disciplines. The University is currently developing its eligibility assessment criteria and processes.

**905 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEES (FE2014-15/076-81)**

The Board received the minutes of the following Staff Student Liaison Committee meetings

- (i) Dept. of Arch & Civil Eng. SSLC 29 October 2014 (FE2014-15/076)
- (ii) Dept. of Chemical Eng. SSC 24 October 2014 (FE2014-15/077)
- (iii) Dept. of Electronic & Electrical Eng. SSLC 29 October 2014 (FE2014-15/078)
- (iv) Dept. of Mechanical Engineering SSLCs 11 Nov & 2 Dec 2014 (FE2014-15/79a/b)
- (v) Faculty SSLC for PGT 2 December 2014 (FE2014-15/080)
- (vi) Swindon College SSLC FdSc/BSc Eng Systems 4 Nov 2014 (FE2014-15/081)

**906 LIBRARY MATTERS**

In the absence of Mr Stacey there were no library matters reported.

**907 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no items of other business and therefore the Board moved onto white FOIA business.