

Faculty of Engineering & Design

Meeting: FACULTY BOARD OF STUDIES
Date and Time: Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 11.00 a.m.
Venue: Via TEAMS

Present:

Professor Gary Hawley	Dean (<i>Chair</i>)
Professor John Chew	Dept. of Chemical Engineering
Dr Sally Clift	Associate Dean (International)
Dr Jos Darling	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
Professor Marianne Ellis	Dept. of Chemical Engineering
Dr Mark Evernden	Dept. of Architecture & Civil Engineering
Dr Sabina Gheduzzi	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
Dr Vaggelis Giannikas	School of Management
Dr Marion Harney	Dept. of Architecture & Civil Engineering
Dr Carmelo Herdes Moreno	Dept. of Chemical Engineering
Professor Tim Ibell	Associate Dean (Learning & Teaching)
Professor Andrew Heath	Dept. of Architecture & Civil Eng (<i>attending for agenda item 5</i>)
Dr Nigel Johnston	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
Dr Tristan Kershaw	Dept. of Architecture & Civil Engineering
Prof. Gary Lock	Dept. of Mechanical Engineering
Dr Francis Robinson	Dept. of Electronic & Electrical Engineering
Dr Mike Wilson	Dept. of Mech Eng

In Attendance: Mrs Rachel Summers Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Dr Kirill Cherednichenko, Professor Adrian Evans, Prof. Davide Mattia and Ms Zoe Paumelle.

1971 APOLOGIES & DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

ACTION

Apologies as detailed above were noted. The Chair asked for any declarations of interest which were not going to be declared during subsequent discussions. There were none

1972 NEW PROGRAMMES: STAGE ONE APPROVAL (FE2020-21/140)

The Chair welcome Professor Heath who was attending the Board to present the proposal for Stage 1 Initial (Strategic) Approval of a new full time PGT programme in the Dept. of Architecture & Civil Engineering – MSc in Civil Engineering. The Chair noted that the proposal had been considered by University Executive Board (UEB) which had approved the business case subject to changes to the proposed staffing requirements, details of which had been included in the covering paper to the Board but had not been updated throughout

the supporting documents as yet. Professor Heath provided an overview of the proposed new MSc which would provide a broader, generalist programme to sit alongside the department's pre-existing suite of more specialist MScs. Market research had shown a demand for a generalist Civil Engineering Masters which will focus on infrastructure engineering, rather than buildings engineering, and will therefore differentiate it from the existing MSc courses ensuring that additional students are recruited, rather than competing against existing course numbers. The new MSc is based on the same model as the Dept's other MScs and will share a number of core units i.e. the professional research skills, multidisciplinary project and dissertation units, as well as draw on units available in the other programmes, which, alongside three new 'technical' units will provide students with a range of unit options. In this respect the new MSc differs from the dept's other programmes which have no optional units. Dr Harney noted that the proposal documentation did not explicitly detail how many optional units students would be required to take. Professor Heath noted that this would be clarified in the detailed curriculum required for Stage 2 approval. He also noted that the operational viability of running optional units (minimum numbers) would also be specified in the full programme specification. Dr Harney noted there were a few minor typos in the documentation requiring correction- details to be passed to Professor Heath. Members of the Board welcomed the programme's proposed focus on sustainable engineering practice and the zero-carbon agenda. Professor Ibell queried whether the 'generalist' approach to MSc development was under consideration in respect of an MSc in Architecture or indeed whether it might be replicated in the Faculty's other academic departments. He also queried whether at this stage the Dept of Arch & Civil Engineering had any plans to withdraw any of its existing MSc programmes. Professor Heath commented that the Dept's PGT programmes had all gone through CT and whilst recruitment remained good there were no plans to close programmes. Members of the Board agreed that there were definite opportunities for future development in certain disciplines e.g. mechanical engineering.

Members of the Board commended the comprehensive market analysis which clearly evidenced the demand for similar programmes at comparable Institutions. Dr Clift queried whether there was any evidence of growth in the overall market for Civil Engineering PGT programmes- Professor Heath commented that the market appeared to be stable and at this point the impact of the pandemic on demand for PGT courses was unclear. Dr Clift asked whether the inclusion of 'Advanced' in the course title might help differentiate the programme from undergraduate level courses. Professor Heath said that including Advanced in the title might suggest 'specialism' whereas the intent was very much to offer a generalist MSc. The Board noted that the Dept. already has an MSc in Civil Engineering: Innovative Structural Materials which may be confusing for applicants using the 'civil engineering' search term and might result in the new course cannibalising applicants from the existing programme (and vice versa).

The Board noted the proposed blended delivery of the course and Professor Ibell suggested that this presented clear opportunities within the Faculty's internationalisation agenda for the remote involvement of external academics possibly through expansion of the visiting academics scheme. The Board agreed that this was something for all departments to explore.

The Board fully supported the proposal and recommended it to Academic Programmes Committee (APC) for strategic approval.

1973 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (FE2020-21/141)

The unreserved minutes of the meeting of the Board of Studies held on 19 May 2021 were approved as a correct record of the proceedings. There were no matters arising

1974 **CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

The Chair had no items of business to report.

1975 **FACULTY LEARNING & TEACHING COMMITTEE (FE2020-21/142)**

The unreserved minutes of the Faculty Learning Teaching & Quality Committee meeting held on 16 June 2021 (unconfirmed) were received and noted.

1976 **FACULTY RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE (FE2020-21/143-144)**

The unreserved (unconfirmed) minutes of the Faculty Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee meetings held on 28 April and 2 June 2021 were received and noted.

1977 **FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE MINUTES (FE2020-21/145)**

The unreserved minutes of the following Faculty Doctoral Studies Committee meeting held on 14 April 2021 were received and noted.

1978 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

There were no other items of business.