



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Wessex House, Council Chamber
Date Wednesday 9 January 2019 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook Dr R Bradford Professor A Burrows Dr S Flower Dr N Fotaki Dr A Hayes Dr R James Dr M Jones Dr P Mitchell Dr A Preston Ms E Rimmer Mr M Saddighani Dr P Snow Professor D Tosh Dr J White Professor C Wilson Professor J Zimmer	Dean of Science (Chair) Department of Computer Science Head of Department of Chemistry Department of Chemistry Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) Deputy Head of Department of Physics Department of Chemistry Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (alternate for Professor S G Ward) Department of Biology and Biochemistry Undergraduate Representative (Natural Sciences) Postgraduate Taught Representative (Biology and Biochemistry) Head of Natural Sciences Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Mathematical Sciences Associate Dean (Research) Department of Mathematical Sciences (alternate for Professor P Milewski)
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett Mrs A L Harper Mrs S Paine	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary) Director of Administration (Observer) Programmes Manager (Operations) (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset Professor C Bowen Professor F Burstall Dr S Gebhard Dr A Gorbach Ms A Lobo Professor P Milewski Professor E O'Neill Dr F Qin Dr G Stothart Professor S G Ward	Learning Partnerships Office Faculty of Engineering and Design Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Physics Students' Union (SU) Sabbatical Officer (Community) Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences Head of Department of Computer Science School of Management Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology

Action

6703 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 22 November 2018 (Paper 127).

**6704 MATTERS ARISING
M6678 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

The Board received a paper (Paper 127a) tabled by the student representatives on ideas of how to improve widening participation. Ms Rimmer reported that a survey had been sent to all Science UG and PGT students regarding barriers to entry to university and what had attracted them to Bath. The Board thanked Ms Rimmer for the report and supported the recommendations identified. The Board suggested that Ms Rimmer forward the report to Dr Andrew Ross, Science Outreach Manager in the Widening Participation (WP) Office. The Board further suggested approaching respondents as links back to schools with high proportions of low income/minority/first in family students who are performing well academically, for inclusion on the list of WP schools currently held by the WP Office. The Board noted that restrictions on outreach locations had now been lifted, with University outreach activities extended to Devon and Cornwall, and South Wales. The Board considered potential for girls in STEM WP schemes and mirroring practice adopted by the Faculty of Engineering and Design of providing schoolteachers with resources to download as part of WP initiatives.

**Student
reps**

M6680 2018/19 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Board noted that the SSLC terms of reference and membership for the Department of Biology and Biochemistry undergraduate programmes would be discussed under agenda item 5.

The Board noted that the Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry was aware of the Board's request for the Department to review separating PGR from PGT SSLC for next year.

6705 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair reported on the following matters:

- Death of Professor Rod Scott, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, on 18 December 2018. On behalf of the Board, the Chair extended sympathies to Rod's family, friends and colleagues. The funeral will be held at 3pm on Friday 11 January 2019 at Haycombe Crematorium, Bath; friends and colleagues are welcome to attend.
- 3 and 5 West new build: 2 options identified and supported by the University Executive will be discussed by the Finance Committee in early February 2019. Following this, the options will be costed up with more detailed planning and financing to avoid creep in the cost.
- New undergraduate courses are being proposed for 2020/21 to address the falling demographics, i.e. decrease in the number of 18 year olds, and more competitive recruitment market. The proposed courses include a 4-year Integrated Masters degree in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry, a Data Science degree in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, and a Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence degree in the Department of Computer Science. In order for these courses to be on the books by the June 2019 Open Day, the QA3 documentation needs to be submitted to the Board for approval at its meeting on 27 February 2019. Other courses are under consideration but it is likely these will be for 2021/22 recruitment.
- PGT targets have now been signed off by Heads of Departments (HoDs).
- Grade inflation has received increased media attention recently, supported by the Office for Students, and will be reviewed as part of the Teaching Excellence Framework. Over the past 10 years, the number of Firsts and 2.1s awarded by the University have increased from 74% to 87%, and the number of Firsts has increased from 23% to 31%. This rate of increase is below the rate of the sector as a whole. While there are no clear trends over the past 5 years, broken down by Department, across the Faculty, a striking feature is that students completing a

placement are significantly more likely to achieve a First or 2.1. The Chair suggested that Departments use this data, to be circulated to HoDs post-meeting, as a recruitment tool. The Board noted the implications for grade inflation of raising the pass mark to 50% for Masters level units.

- Enterprise / Entrepreneurship and Innovation: 4 working groups were initiated from an earlier review:
 - i) Building Projects (focus was on School of Management and will include 3 and 5 West new build incubator space);
 - ii) Strategic Targets;
 - iii) Intellectual Property, Venture Funding and Partnerships;
 - iv) Communications, Synthesis and Programmes.
 The working groups will report on progress over the coming months.
- The University is in the process of establishing a MoU with the Turkish embassy for sponsorship of PGT and PGR students; more detail will be known once negotiations are finalised.
- Emerging new international strategy, with 4 strategic goals:
 - i) raise international profile and reputation;
 - ii) increase international research power and address global challenges;
 - iii) develop a globally aware and mobile University;
 - iv) strengthen European engagement.
 In order to achieve these goals the University will focus on transnational education, UG and PG capacity sharing, research strengths to build research links, and creating key international partnerships.
- The University is developing a Brexit plan, coordinated by Professor Steve Egan, Vice-President (Implementation). Given the fluid nature of the situation, regular communications will be provided as the Brexit process progresses. It was noted that associated webpages have been established for students and Overseas / European members of staff.

6706 2018/19 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Board approved the SSLC terms of reference and membership for the Department of Biology and Biochemistry undergraduate programmes (Paper 129). The HoD reported that the Department would follow-up on student representative posts yet to be filled, e.g. final year reps. Ms Rimmer commended the ratio of staff to students and the inclusion of Natural Sciences reps. The Secretary agreed to amend the template for next year to require a list of individual programmes covered by the SSLC (*actioned immediately post-meeting*).

6707 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry: 22 November 2018 (PGT) (Paper 136A).

Department of Computer Science: 26 October (Paper 138A) and 30 November (Paper 138B) 2018. The Chair requested that the Department address the need to improve integration with international students, and report back on progress to the Board.

Department of Mathematical Sciences: 21 November 2018 (Paper 139).

Natural Sciences: 5 December 2018 (Paper 140).

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology: 5 (UG) (Paper 141A) and 6 (PGT) (Paper 141B) December 2018. The Chair requested that the Department address the issue of clashing assessment deadlines, and report back on progress to the Board.

Department of Physics 21 November 2018 (Paper 142).

**Comp Sci
DoS team**

**Director of
Teaching**

6708 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
There was none.