



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**  
Place Council Chamber  
Date Thursday 23 November 2017 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook	Dean of Science (Chair)
	Ms M Aspbury	Undergraduate Representative (Natural Sciences)
	Dr J Bultitude	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
	Professor A D Burrows	Department of Chemistry
	Dr J Doughty	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Dr N Fotaki	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Professor C Frost	Head of Department of Chemistry
	Dr A Gorbach	Department of Physics
	Dr A Hayes	Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching)
	Professor R S G Jones	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Professor C Mundell	Head of Department of Physics
	Dr J Nordstrom	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Mr B Palmer	Students' Union (SU) Sabbatical Officer (Community)
	Miss H Parker	Postgraduate Taught Representative (Biology and Biochemistry)
Dr H Schwetlick	Department of Mathematical Sciences (alternate for Professor P Milewski)	
Dr P Snow	Head of Natural Sciences	
Professor C Wilson	Associate Dean (Research)	
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)
	Mrs A L Harper	Faculty of Science (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset	Learning Partnerships Office
	Professor C Bowen	Faculty of Engineering and Design
	Dr R Bradford	Department of Computer Science
	Professor F Burstall	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Dr S Gebhard	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Professor P Milewski	Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Professor E O'Neill	Head of Department of Computer Science
	Professor R J Scott	Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Professor S G Ward	Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Dr F Qin	School of Management	

**6467 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** **ACTION**  
The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 11 October 2017 (Paper 55) and there were no matters arising.

**6468 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**  
The Chair reported the following:

- HEFCE report, published 20 November 2017, on the University's governance in relation to the remuneration of senior staff:

The Vice-Chancellor has apologised for voting on the motion put to the February 2017 Court meeting about the conduct of the Remuneration Committee. The enquiry found that there are no standing orders for Court. The Remuneration Committee meets the basic requirements of HEFCE but there is scope for improvement in the way it operates, particularly in terms of its transparency and recommended best practice. At the Vice-Chancellor's request, Council has agreed that the Vice-Chancellor will no longer be a member of the Remuneration Committee. A review of the University's governance structure will be undertaken over the coming months by an external organisation which will consult with members of Council, Senate and other stakeholders.

- At the 22 November 2017 Senate meeting, a motion of no confidence in the Vice-Chancellor (based on the findings of the HEFCE report) was defeated in a secret ballot (as requested by over a third of members) by 19 votes to 16, with 2 abstentions. After a frank and lengthy debate, including discussion on where responsibility lay, Senate agreed that removing the Vice-Chancellor served no purpose for the University in its current position within the HE environment. The outcome of the vote has been formally communicated to Council.
- Curriculum transformation agenda:  
At its meeting on 22 November 2017, Senate agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting would be amended to stress that the curriculum transformation principles it had considered were simply starting principles. Senate also agreed that the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) would report back on progress to Senate at regular intervals throughout the curriculum transformation process. The Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) and Registry are leading on the transition (from 2020/21) from ECTS to CATS and the implications of this for NFAAR. The Chair reported that the Faculty Executive Committee had held a meeting on 7 November 2017 dedicated to discussing ideas and concerns associated with curriculum transformation, notes from which would be accessible to the Board at its next meeting. The Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) reported that a Curriculum Transformation Working Group (CTWG) had been established, comprising representatives from each Department, nominated by Heads of Departments (HoDs) (including Natural Sciences), the Faculty Assistant Registrar and the Faculty Placements Manager. The first meeting of the CTWG will take place on 12 December 2017.
- Strategic research equipment bid:  
The Faculty of Science bid for 4 items of equipment, 2 of which were also supported by the Faculty of Engineering and Design (E&D). All 4 items will be funded. The University allocated £1.5 million to this budget, Science contributed an additional £180k and E&D contributed £100k. The items included an upgraded high throughput open access Liquid Chromatography high-mass spectrometer, a powder X-ray diffractometer, small X-ray scattering (SAXS) instrument and a cryo-field emission scanning electron microscope. The Faculty has £70k left over which will be used to support the maintenance of more generic equipment.
- Strategic teaching equipment bid:  
The Faculty has been allocated approx. £100k for 2017/18 to purchase equipment to support teaching. This will facilitate a rolling programme of teaching computer replacements in the Faculty, starting this year with the Departments of Chemistry and Physics (where there is the highest concentration of oldest PCs), for which approx. £40k has been allocated. HoDs have been invited to submit bids for the remaining £60k for new and replacement teaching equipment, the deadline for which is 24 November 2017.

**6469 MEMBERSHIP OF BOARDS OF EXAMINERS FOR UNITS (BEUs) AND PROGRAMMES (BEPs) FOR 2017/18**

The student representatives requested that the BEU and BEP membership template be amended for next year to request inclusion of the institutions at which External Examiners are based.

*Secretary's note: amendment made immediately after meeting.*

The Board approved the proposed BEU and BEP membership for the following Departments:

**Department of Biology and Biochemistry** (Paper 58).

**Department of Chemistry** (Paper 59):

The Board requested that reference to Professor A D Burrows as Director of Teaching (on page 4) be corrected to Dr M D Jones.

*Secretary's note: amendment made immediately after meeting.*

**Department of Computer Science** (Paper 60).

**Learning Partnerships Office** (Paper 61).

**Department of Mathematical Sciences** (Paper 62):

The Board requested that MSc Mathematical Sciences and Dr Simon Shaw be removed (on page 14) since this programme is being withdrawn.

*Secretary's note: correction made immediately after meeting.*

**Natural Sciences** (Paper 63).

**Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology** (Paper 64).

**Department of Physics** (Paper 65)

**6470 2017/18 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP**

The Board agreed that the SSLC student representative posts had been better filled this year compared to last year. The Chair thanked the SU and Departments for their efforts in supporting the elections for Academic Reps. The Board approved the SSLC terms of reference and membership for the following Departments:

**Department of Biology and Biochemistry**

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 66).

PGT (and PGR) programmes (Paper 67). The Chair requested that the Department review separating PGR from PGT for next year.

**Department of Computer Science**

Undergraduate and PGT programmes (Paper 68).

**Learning Partnerships Office (LPO)**

FdSc and BSc (Hons) Applied Computing (licensed) delivered by Bath College and Wiltshire College, and International Foundation Year (licensed) delivered by Bath College (Paper 69).

The Board noted that explicit mention of 'considering annually the operation of the personal tutor system' (stipulated in QA48), as requested by the Board last year, had been included in the LPO licenced provision SSLC terms of reference.

**Department of Mathematical Sciences**

Undergraduate and PGT programmes (Paper 70).

**Natural Sciences** (Paper 71).

The student representatives noted that the Natural Sciences SSLC terms of reference included an additional departmental function to appoint representatives to sit on the SSLCs of departments teaching core subjects for the Nat Sci programmes. The student representatives requested that the SSLC membership and terms of reference template be amended for next year to include an additional departmental function for the Departments of Biology and Biochemistry, Chemistry, Physics and Pharmacy and Pharmacology (which teach core subjects for the Nat Sci programmes) to include Nat

**Biology  
HoD**

Sci student academic representatives.

*Secretary's note: this amendment was made immediately after the meeting.*

**Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology**

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 72).

The Chair highlighted that the Department would need to establish a PGT SSLC next year for the new MSc Drug Discovery programme commencing in 2018/19. The Chair noted that the SSLC equivalent arrangements for AP3T distance-learning students were discussed by the Board last year and requested that an update on these arrangements be submitted for discussion by the Board at its next meeting.

**AP3T DoS**

**Department of Physics**

Undergraduate programmes (Paper 73).

**6471 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS**

**Department of Biology and Biochemistry** 27 October 2017 (Paper 81).

The student representatives commented that the statement that all final years across the UK would have agreed to complete the NSS when registering with the University was misleading since it inferred incorrectly that students are obliged to complete the NSS. The student representatives also sought clarification that NSS results were discussed at this meeting, since this was not reflected in the minutes. The Board Secretary confirmed that NSS results were discussed at this meeting and areas attracting low scores identified. The Chair advised the student representatives to raise these matters at the next SSLC meeting when the minutes of the previous meeting are reviewed for their accuracy as a true record of the meeting.

**Department of Chemistry** 1 November 2017 (Paper 81a – late paper).

**Department of Computer Science** 3 November 2017 (Paper 82).

**Department of Mathematical Sciences** 25 October 2017 (Paper 83).

**Natural Sciences** 18 October 2017 (Paper 84).

**Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology** 25 October 2017 (Paper 85).

**Department of Physics** 1 November 2017 (Paper 86).

**6472 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.