

BoS 25 February 2026

Wednesday, 25th February 2026 2:15pm

Teams | Faculty of Science Board of Studies

Attendees

Attended

Zoe Burke

Andy Burrows [AD(E)]

Duncan Craig (Chair)

Susan Crennell (SC)

Sergey Dolgov (SD)

Marguerite Hallett (Secretary)

Amanda Harper

Momna Hejmadi

Matthew Jones (MJ)

Zack Lyons (ZL)

Amanda Mackenzie

Penn Mackintosh (PM)

Charareh Pourzand (CP)

Tim Rogers

Gan Shermer (GS)

David Tsang

Ventsislav Valev

Carolin Villforth

Michael Wilson

Rhod Woodhouse

Did Not Attend

Florin Bisset
Sumukh Chaluvaraju
Thomas Cottrell
Charlotte Dodson
Christina Keating
Eamonn O'Neill
Fei Qin
Dmitry Skryabin
Arya Wood

1.0 Welcome and Quorum (7864)

The Chair welcomed members, noted apologies and observed that the meeting was quorate.

2.0 Declarations of Interest (7865)

There were no declarations of any potential conflicts of interest.

3.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (7866)

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 January 2026 (Paper 127).

4.0 Matters Arising (7867)

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

5.0 Chair's Business (7868)

The Chair invited the Head of the Department of Chemistry to extend congratulations to GS on her promotion to Professor. MJ was pleased to congratulate GS on her appointment as Professor of Chemistry Education, the first such position in the Department of Chemistry.

6.0 Faculty Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (7869)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2026 (Paper 128).

7.0 Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (7870)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026 (Paper 129).

8.0 Faculty Executive Committee (7871)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2026 (Paper 130). PM noted that Registry had indicated a willingness, in principle, to provide central support for the early release of Semester 1 results next year. He asked whether this update could be shared with the wider student community to help close the feedback loop. The AD(E) advised against wider communication at this stage to avoid raising expectations, since no formal agreement had yet been reached. Nonetheless, it is encouraging that Registry is open to the proposal. It is hoped that positive feedback from the current Faculty-wide trial (alongside feedback from last year's pilot in two departments) and any subsequent improvement in NSS results over the summer, will help to strengthen the case.

The Chair noted that early result release places a significant administrative burden on departments, particularly in ensuring that results are checked thoroughly for accuracy given the University's duty of care to students. By contrast, a centralised release via Registry would be considerably more straightforward.

PM added that the feedback he had received from students had been very positive overall. Although there had been some initial implementation issues, he expressed confidence that these could be resolved if Registry were to assume responsibility next year. He also commented that the revised format of the Faculty Executive Committee minutes had made them clearer and easier to read.

9.0 Faculty Doctoral Studies Committee (7872)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2026 (Paper 131).

10.0 University Board of Studies (Doctoral) (7873)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 10 December 2025 (Paper 132A) and 14 January 2026 (Paper 132B).

11.0 Staff Student Liaison Committee meetings (7874)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

Department of Computer Science: 29 October (Paper 133A) and 26 November (Paper 133B) 2025.

PM reported that he had received positive feedback from several first-year Computer Science students regarding the weekly bulletins organised by the Year 1 and 2 DoS. The bulletins include a concise overview of the week ahead, key announcements, reminders about groupwork, events and deadlines, and clear signposting to available support. PM highlighted this as an example of good practice that could be adopted by other departments, should there be interest.

ZL added that the Deputy HoD for People, Culture and Environment had introduced a departmental newsletter for both staff and students to showcase achievements and share

updates relating to teaching and research. The Chair emphasised the importance of ensuring distance-learning PGT student are included in this communication, in response to PTES feedback indicating that online students often feel less connected to the department community than they would like. He added that he would explore the newsletter concept with CP, particularly in relation to Faculty culture and inclusion. ZL agreed to circulate examples of the bulletin and newsletter to colleagues who may be interested.

12.0 Any Other Business (7875)

There was none.