



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**  
Place 1 East, Room 3.6  
Date Wednesday 27 February 2019 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook Dr R Bradford Professor A Burrows Professor F Burstall Dr S Flower Dr S Gebhard Dr A Gorbach Dr R James Dr M Jones Dr A Preston Ms E Rimmer Mr M Saddighani  Dr P Snow Professor D Tosh Professor S G Ward Dr J White Professor C Wilson	Dean of Science (Chair) Department of Computer Science Head of Department of Chemistry Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Chemistry Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Physics Deputy Head of Department of Physics Department of Chemistry 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 Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Department of Mathematical Sciences Associate Dean (Research)
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett Mrs A L Harper	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary) Director of Administration (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset Professor C Bowen Dr N Fotaki Dr A Hayes Ms A Lobo Professor P Milewski Professor E O'Neill Dr F Qin Dr G Stothart	Learning Partnerships Office Faculty of Engineering and Design Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) 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

**Action**

**6728 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 9 January 2019 (Paper 157).

**6729 MATTERS ARISING**

**M6704 MATTERS ARISING**

The Board noted that Dr Andrew Ross, Science Outreach Manager in the Widening Participation (WP) Office, and the Outreach team, had agreed to implement the recommendations in the report on improving widening participation. Respondents to the survey would be asked to return to their schools over the Easter break to give a talk about attending Bath. This would be facilitated by the Outreach team, e.g. training

provided. The survey would be modified and repeated, targeting first year students in particular, to be promoted both through Academic Reps and Heads of Department (HoDs).

#### **M6705 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

The Board noted that the degree outcomes paper had been circulated to HoDs for use as a recruitment tool. In response to a request from the Head of Mathematical Sciences Year 2 averages of students completing and not completing a placement had also been provided to check the statistical significance of placement effect, i.e. to see whether it was the better students that got placements in the first place, and to compare outcomes for placement and non-placement students with the same, or very similar, Year 2 averages.

#### **M6707 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS**

##### **Department of Computer Science**

The Board noted that in response to its request that the Department of Computer Science report on progress with improving integration with international students, the Department had reported that it had identified an attainment gap for international students and this was the Department's key focus currently. The Department ran a focus group for Final Year Computer Science international students, facilitated by the SU International Student Co-ordinator and Student Engagement Ambassador. Based on feedback from this session, the Department will:

- i) continue to consult with Academic Reps to ensure that it remains aware of inclusivity issues, and to inform how best to support projects/ventures that align with inclusivity at University and Department level (e.g. workshops and competition entries).
- ii) create a Computer Science international network with a mailing list communicating regular events for international students, to which home students can also opt-in. This will provide an opportunity for Year 1 students to meet international students from higher years.
- iii) hold a networking event for all 70 international UG students on campus, at which Final Year international students will give short talks. This event will be held in Semester 1 going forwards, and run entirely by students themselves.
- iv) make PAL Leaders aware of challenges international students might face, expanding on their training to signpost specific resources where necessary.
- v) continue to signpost student groups to University areas of expertise, e.g. the International Students' Association.

##### **Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology**

The Board noted that in response to its request that the Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology report on progress with addressing clashing assessment deadlines, the Department had reported that it had an MPharm programme-level assessment strategy which specifies all assessments for each of the 20 units in the new MPharm programme. Aligned with this, the Department had been constructing an assessment schedule to timetable what is to be assessed, by whom, and when feedback should be provided. This schedule would be used to 'smooth out' assessment peaks whenever possible; however, a function of reducing examination assessment but increasing coursework assessment is that inevitably there will be times when more than one end-of-unit assessment is due.

#### **6730 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

The Chair reported on the following matters:

- Ede and Ravenscroft Prize 2019: nominations are now open for best PGR student; the closing date is 26 April.
- Chancellor's Prize: nominations are now open for best final year undergraduate student; the closing date is 7 May.

- Faculty Teaching Awards 2019: nominations are now open for teaching, teaching assistant and learning support; the closing date is 7 May.
- PGT recruitment is on track, with some areas lagging for UG recruitment.
- The SAMBa CDT bid for renewal was successful, as were bids for a new CDT in Accountable, Responsible and Transparent Artificial Intelligence, and in Aerosol Science led by the University of Bristol in partnership with Bath. The Sustainable Chemical Technologies CDT bid for renewal was, however, unsuccessful.
- Senate has agreed to extend academic status to teaching fellows, thereby enabling them to transfer to become lecturers and senior lecturers and so have a more secure career footing.
- The University passed the UKVI visit in November 2018 but the University's monitoring of Tier 4 students was flagged as being light in comparison to other institutions. It is anticipated that the Faculty will be required to formalise its current monitoring mechanisms, e.g. via weekly tutorials / laboratory sessions, as opposed to conducting a wholesale review. There will be University wide guidance issued.
- The Faculty planning meeting will take place on 8 April. The University's budget for next year incorporates 2% growth but a 4% growth in costs is forecast so real term cuts are expected. Nevertheless, the University remains in a buoyant financial position compared with most other institutions.
- Professorial appointments will now be considered by the Academic Staff Committee, with the Faculty promotions panel remaining to provide a filter. Arrangements at Faculty level will be reviewed to ensure parity is maintained across the University.
- NSS 2019 opened on 4 February. To facilitate the encouragement of students to complete the survey, a £500 prize will be provided to the Department within the Faculty with the highest response rate. The Department of Chemistry is currently in the lead, followed by Natural Sciences, then Biology and Biochemistry.
- The role of Head of Natural Sciences is currently being advertised, and the advert for Associate Dean L&T will be publicised soon.
- The SU has produced a paper on errors in examination papers, which has been circulated to HoDs. In response to Student Rep feedback on this matter, FLTQC has reviewed Departments' processes for assessment moderation, identified a set of recommendations to be implemented, and devised a set of principles to guide how Departments deal with errors in exam papers.

**6731 ADDITION OF PG CERT TO MSc MODERN APPLICATIONS OF MATHEMATICS**

The Board considered the cover note (Paper 161A) and amended Programme Specification (Paper 161B) and agreed Stage One Initial Approval (prior to consideration by APC) of a proposal to add to the MSc Modern Applications of Mathematics a PG Cert exit award from 2019/20.

**6732 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS**

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

**Department of Biology and Biochemistry:** 6 December 2018 (Paper 166).

**Department of Chemistry:** 28 November 2018 (Paper 167).

**Natural Sciences:** 6 February 2019 (Paper 168).

**6733 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.