



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Council Chamber
Date Wednesday 28 February 2018 at 14:15

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

6518 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 10 January 2018 (Paper 138) and there were no matters arising.
The Board noted that FLTQC had discussed a paper put forward by student representatives on the communication of scaling at its meeting on 21 February and that this would inform any institutional level discussions on the matter by ULTQC.

6519 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair reported the following:

- The Chair thanked Dr Janet Bultitude for her contribution to the Board's work over the past three years and welcomed Dr George Stothart, Department of Psychology, as the new replacement representative for the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.
- Undergraduate (UG) recruitment is at a similar level compared to this time last year, although there are notable variations across the Faculty. UG recruitment in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry had dropped significantly since last year, possibly due to the Department dropping out of the Top 10 in national league tables. The Department of Chemistry had seen a slight decrease in UG recruitment in line with national trends. Conversely, the Departments of Computer Science and Physics had experienced a significant uplift in UG recruitment following an effective social media campaign run by the Faculty marketing team. The increase in recruitment to Physics may also have resulted from the Department moving back into the national Top 10. The Head of Natural Sciences reported that, as a result of central University admissions making equivalent offers to Natural Sciences applicants, many had placed Bath as their insurance offer due to a perception of the offer as a soft option. The Chair requested that this situation be kept under review.
- The University's Court met on 16 January and passed a motion of no confidence in the Vice Chancellor and Chair of Council, with a request that they leave their posts immediately, and of no confidence in the Remuneration Committee, with a request that its members step down immediately and that its power to set executive pay be returned to Council as a whole. At its meeting last week Council agreed to postpone further discussion of this matter until its next meeting so that it could form part of wider effectiveness review discussions.
- The UCU strike over USS pensions will run from 22 February, over 4 weeks, and action short of a strike (i.e. work to contract) will run continuously to no later than 19 June. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching) provided Deans and Heads of Department with guidance on 16 February regarding the planned UCU action and has written to students outlining the University's approach to minimise the negative impact of the strike action on students.
- NSS, UKES, PTES and PRES opened on 5 February and weekly performance figures are being circulated. The Chair requested colleagues and student representatives to promote the surveys and encourage students to respond. The Chair noted that the University was currently in week 3 of the response period and that most Departments had similar, or slightly higher, response rates compared to this time last year.
- Nominations are now open for the following 2018 Faculty teaching awards:
 - ❖ Faculty Teaching Award (open to academic and postdoctoral staff);
 - ❖ Faculty Teaching Assistant Award (open to postgraduate research students);
 - ❖ Faculty Learning Support Award (open to technical and administrative staff).The deadline for nominations from students and staff is 6 April.
- At its meeting on 7 February, Senate approved changes to the appointment criteria for Professor Emeritus so that, with immediate effect, the title may be conferred on any Professor of the University on or after retirement, provided that, *inter alia*, they have been employed by the University for at least 15 years, and have held the title of Professor at the University for at least 5 years. Senate also agreed that there must be compelling reasons not to confer the title in cases where the appointment criteria have been met.
- The University has appointed a new Equality and Diversity Manager. On 21 March the University's Equality and Diversity team and Bath Spa University will host the annual Joint Equality Forum with guest speaker, comedienne Francesca Martinez.

6520 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted SSLC meeting minutes from the following Departments:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry 8 December 2017 (Paper 146).

Department of Chemistry 29 November 2017 (Paper 147).

Department of Computer Science 8 December 2017 (Paper 148).

Department of Mathematical Sciences 29 November 2017 (Paper 149).

Natural Sciences 6 December 2017 (Paper 150).

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology 6 December 2017 (Paper 151).

Department of Physics 29 November 2017 (Paper 152).

6521 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.