



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Council Chamber
Date Wednesday 26 February 2020 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook	Dean of Science (Chair)
	Professor A Burrows	Head of Department of Chemistry
	Professor F Burstall	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Dr S Flower	Department of Chemistry
	Professor M Fraser	Department of Computer Science
	Dr A Gorbach	Department of Physics
	Dr R James	Head of Department of Physics
	Professor M Jones	Department of Chemistry
	Mr C Lai	UG student representative
	Professor T Mays	Faculty of Engineering and Design
	Professor N McHugh	Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Professor P Milewski	Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Dr A Preston	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Dr G Stothart	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
	Dr J White	Head of Natural Sciences
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)
	Mrs A L Harper	Faculty of Science (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset	Learning Partnerships Office
	Dr R Bradford	Department of Computer Science
	Dr N Fotaki	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Professor C Frost	Deputy Dean of Science
	Professor M Hejmadi	Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching)
	Mr C Okayo	PGT student representative
	Dr F Qin	School of Management
	Dr T Shardlow	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Professor D Tosh	Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry
	Professor C Wilson	Associate Dean (Research)
	Dr M Wright	Department of Computer Science

Action

6931 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 15 January 2020 (Paper 146).

**6932 MATTERS ARISING
M6907 CHAIR'S BUSINESS**

The Board noted that Dr Kit Yates would attend the Faculty WP Coordination Group, alongside the Maths Dept. outreach officer. The Chair reported that other Depts had since also expressed interest in having academic representation on this Group, in addition to their WP funded post.

6933 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair reported the following matters:

- Faculty 2020/21 UG applications are 8.6% up on this time last year. PGT applications have increased significantly, mainly overseas applications (86% last year) totalling more than those received by E&D to date. There has been a big uplift in PGT conditional firms (double last year) and unconditional firms (5 times last year).
- NSS response rates for all Depts bar one are above 40% after week 3, which is an improvement on last year. The Chair thanked members for their hard work in achieving this. The University's NSS response rate has reached the same level now as it had after week 7 last year.
- The Chair thanked HoDs for their efforts in evaluating the impact of Semester 1 strike action. The analysis had demonstrated that students' abilities to achieve their learning outcomes had been unaffected.
- The Chair reminded HoDs of the request from the PVC L&T for Depts to review their degree outcomes data and complete a short questionnaire, by 16 March, to inform the University's 2019/20 Degree Outcomes Statement. The Chair highlighted that, over the past 5 years, there had been an upward trend across the University in the proportion of 2.1s and 1^{sts} awarded, with notable differences between Depts. A draft report will be submitted to Council in May.
- Following the recent cybersecurity incident at the University, the Chair reminded of the need for all staff to undertake the mandatory information security awareness training and to avoid circulating sensitive information by email if there are alternative ways to disseminate the information.

6934 ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIZES

The Board considered for approval the establishment of new:

- a) Second Year Infineum Prize for Chemistry, for the top three Year 2 Chemistry students (highest OSAs) (Paper 148A).
- b) Infineum Prize for Best Final Year Inorganic Masters (MChem) project (Paper 148B).

Professor Burrows commented that the Dept was keen to increase the number of prizes its offers.

The Board noted that the Second Year Infineum Prize for Chemistry would be awarded to the three students with the highest OSAs, so enquired as to why tutors' comments would be sought in making award decisions. Professor Burrows explained that tutors' comments may be important in considering students with accepted IMC.

The Board noted recent discussions at Senate regarding the appropriateness of accepting funding from petrochemical companies, e.g. BP awards. During those discussions, the SU had requested assurance that funding would be around sustainability. The Board enquired as to whether students had been consulted on the establishment of the new Infineum prizes. Professor Jones explained that while students had not been consulted directly, all first year students had been given a molecular model kit this year, funded by Infineum, and none had raised any issues regarding the sponsor. Professor Burrows added that students currently undertake placements with Infineum, a company which also funds research grants. Professor Jones highlighted that Infineum undertakes notable work in support of environmental sustainability.

The Board recognised that the University does not have a clear position on the ethics of funding, except consensus not to accept direct funding from the tobacco industry. The Chair agreed to raise this matter (to include funding of prizes / research grants / scholarships) with the Climate Action Framework Group before approving the prizes under Chair's action, or bringing the prizes back for approval by the Board at its next meeting.

Chair

6935 2019/20 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Board approved the SSLC terms of reference and membership for online MSc courses with Wiley (MSc Computer Science and MSc Artificial Intelligence) (Paper 149). The Board noted that all students would be invited to participate in the SSLC via the online VLE over a period of one week, three times a year.

6936 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry 5 December (UG) 2019 (Paper 155A) and 20 January (PGT) 2020 (Paper 155B).

Department of Chemistry 27 November 2019 (Paper 156).

Department of Computer Science PGT online October 2019 (Paper 157).

Natural Sciences 4 December 2019 (Paper 158).

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology 11 December 2019 (Paper 159).

6937 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.



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Action

6938 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 15 January 2020 (Paper 146), and there were no matters arising.

6939 REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board received details of awards accepted by Research and Innovation Services from 14 January until 18 February 2020 (Paper 147).

6940 FACULTY LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2020 (Paper 150).

- 6941 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)**
The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 4 December 2019 (Paper 151A) and 15 January 2020 (Paper 151B).
- 6942 FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE (FDSC)**
The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2019 (Paper 152).
- 6943 FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE**
The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2020 (Paper 153).
- 6944 FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 10 December 2019 (Paper 154A) and 14 January 2020 (Paper 154B).
- 6945 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
There was none.