



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Microsoft Teams
Date Wednesday 20 May 2020 at 14:15

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

Action

6978 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 1 April 2020 (Paper 212), and there were no matters arising.

6979 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair reported the following matters:

- Online exams have run smoothly to date; the Chair thanked members for their work in getting these in place and support with running them. Take-up and completion rates seem to be similar to more traditional on-campus equivalents.

- The University is still considering options for teaching next academic year. The favoured option currently is a blended approach of face-to-face group teaching with online lectures and potentially lab work. There is a working group and a workshop this Friday to try to expose some of the issues related to reopening campus for the start of 2020/21. Serious consideration needs to be given to how this would work for labs, given we may not be able to use labs to full capacity, e.g. creating efficiencies through the use of online tools.
- Research restart: there are 2 identified pilots in the University; one in Health which has opened up labs in 6 West South and in CSCT in Science in 5 West. A third pilot may also go ahead focused on 4 South. Once lessons have been learned from these pilots the University will be able to open up other buildings. HSE compliance testing in 1 South will start immediately after the bank holiday and will take 6-7 working days to complete.
- The University needs to find an additional £3million per annum as a result of the capping of Home undergraduate fees. Approx. half the intake to the Faculty's PGT courses are from overseas so any drop in the overseas market will have a notable impact on Faculty's finances. The University's financial planning indicates a need to make savings of £25-50million in 2020/21.
- University Teaching Awards 2020:
 - Innovation in Learning & Teaching Award: Lyn Hanning, Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology.
 - John Willis Award: Dr Stijn Wuyts, Department of Physics.
 - Director of Studies Award: Dr Philip Rogers, Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology.
 - Best Team in Support of Student Learning: Department of Chemistry - Professor Matthew Jones, Dr Mary Mahon, Dr Gan Shermer and Dr Claire McMullin.
- SU Education Awards 2020:
 - Personal Tutors of the Year: Professor Francis Burstall, Department of Mathematical Sciences, and Dr Julien Licchesi, Department of Biology and Biochemistry.
 - Outstanding Contribution to Peer Assisted Learning: Dr Zack Lyons, Department of Computer Science.

6980 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry 26 March 2020 (Paper 221).

Department of Chemistry 11 March (Paper 222A) and 22 April (Paper 222B) 2020.

Department of Computer Science 23 March 2020 (Paper 223).

Department of Mathematical Sciences 30 March 2020 (Paper 224).

Natural Sciences 29 April 2020 (Paper 225).

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology 18 March (Paper 226A), 2 April (Paper 226B), 8 April (Paper 226C) and 22 April (Paper 226D) 2020.

Department of Physics 11 March (Paper 227A) and 1 April (Paper 227B) 2020.

6981 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.



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6982 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 1 April 2020 (Paper 212).

6983 MATTERS ARISING

M6963 SEMESTER 1 SCALING REPORT AND ERRORS IN EXAMINATION PAPERS

In response to the Chair's request for Computer Science and Maths DLTQCs to review units which had been scaled or had mean marks in the atypical range for a number of years, and report back to the Board, the Committee noted Computer Science DLTQC

28th April 2020 minute extract (Paper 212A).

The Chair noted that much of the proposed solutions were wrapped up in Curriculum Transformation which, for UG courses, had since been delayed by 12 months. The Chair therefore encouraged the Department to implement solutions, and lessons learnt from Covid19 assessment changes, in time for 2020/21.

The Committee noted that Maths had not held a DLTQC since the last Board meeting so would report back to a future Board meeting.

Maths DoT

6984 REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board received details of awards accepted by Research and Innovation Services from 27 March until 12 May 2020 (Paper 213).

The Chair congratulated in particular:

- Professor Darren Cosker, Department of Computer Science, for his award of £2,221,836 from the EPSRC for research by the Centre for Analysis of Motion, Entertainment Research and Applications (CAMERA) 2.0.

6985 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

The Board approved, following review by the Faculty Research Committee on:

- 9 March 2020: Continuation of the **Research Centre for Probability (ProbL@b)**, from February 2020 until January 2023.
- 11 May 2020: Disestablishment of the **Research Centre for Regenerative Medicine (CRM)**, linked to its incorporation as a major component of a Theme within the Research Centre for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) (Paper 214).

Professor Wilson reported that while the CRM's work remained relevant, its activities had tailed off, so it had been agreed that Regenerative Medicine should be incorporated as a major theme within CTI.

6986 REPORT ON THE USE OF STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANTS 2019/20

The Board monitored the involvement of, and arrangements for, students undertaking teaching activities, to report on this activity to ULTQC in June:

- **Biology and Biochemistry** (Paper 215A). The Board noted that the Department only used PGR students as STAs.
- **Chemistry** (Paper 215B). The HoD commented that the Department only used PGR students as STAs, mainly for demonstrating and a small amount of tutorial work.
- **Computer Science** (Paper 215C). The Board noted that the Department used a mix of UG and PGT/R students as STAs. The HoD reported that the Department planned to run its own in-house training in early September.
- **Mathematical Sciences** (Paper 215D). The Board noted that the Department used a mix of UG and PGT/R students as STAs. The HoD reported that first and second year undergraduate students continued to appreciate the teaching provided by MMath final year students.
- **Pharmacy and Pharmacology** (Paper 215E). The HoD commented that the report was incomplete and agreed to provide an updated version for review by the Board at its next meeting. The HoD reported that the Department had overcome barriers (e.g. communication with Unit Convenors, practical demonstrator briefings) to recruiting PGR students and by Semester 2 had an adequate pool.
- **Physics** (Paper 215F). The Board noted that the Department only used PGR students as STAs.

P&P HoD

6987 EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW REPORT OF SENATE 2019/20

The Board considered the extract relating to Boards of Studies, in particular the recommendations in section R7.1 of Appendix 1 (Paper 216). The Board noted that Senate would formulate a response in the form of an action plan.

The Chair brought the following findings to the attention of the Board:

- Senate rarely reads or acts upon BoS minutes which is seen as a shortcoming to ensuring adequate oversight.
- It is inappropriate for BoS to scrutinise individual student marks and require physical signing of Pass Lists; this is likely to change going forward.
- Recommendation that BoS Terms of Reference are reviewed in consultation with Deans, FARs and Academic Registry to bring them in line with appropriate current practice (e.g. scrutiny of marks) and to reflect more clearly strategic consideration of Faculty issues, e.g. increasing our international profile.
- Need to understand better the overlap with BoS Doctoral.

Dr White commented that key changes to come out of the review relate to the two-way discussion and accountability between Senate and its subcommittees (e.g. BoS). The Board agreed that it needs to consider academic strategic matters (teaching, learning and research) at the Faculty level using the expertise of its members and to flag clearly to Senate the items it wishes to bring to Senate's attention. Professor Fraser added that the concept of removing disconnect could also be applied by BoS to its own reporting committees, e.g. Research Committee and FLTQC.

6988 FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 10 March (Paper 217A) and 21 April (Paper 217B) 2020.

6989 FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 9 March (Paper 218A) and 20 April (Paper 218B) 2020.

6990 FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE (FDSC)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2020 (Paper 219).

6991 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2020 (Paper 220).

6992 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.