University of Bath Faculty of Science



Meeting FACULTY LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

Place Microsoft Teams

Date and Time Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 14:15

Present Professor M V Hejmadi Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) (Chair)

Postgraduate Taught student representative (Department of Mr T Cheung

Computer Science)

Miss F Jackson Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community)

Professor M Jones Department of Chemistry Dr F R Laughton Department of Physics

Undergraduate student representative (Department of Mr K Maharai

Computer Science)

Dr K Mattacks Centre for Learning and Teaching (CLT) Dr F Nemetz Department of Computer Science Programmes Manager (Operations) Mrs S Paine

Department of Pharmacv and Pharmacology Dr P J Rogers

Dr T Shardlow Department of Mathematical Sciences Dr C M Todd Department of Biology and Biochemistry

Dr J White Natural Sciences programmes

Mr J Withington Undergraduate student representative (Department of

Physics)

In attendance Mrs M L Hallett Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)

Apologies Dr F Bisset Head of Learning Partnerships

> Professor S Ward Associate Dean (International)

2992 THINKING AHEAD

DECOLONISING THE CURRICULUM: Dr Kate Mattacks, Curriculum Development Officer,

CLT (20 minute presentation, followed by 10 minute Q&A) (Paper 44).

Decolonising the curriculum was one of the SU's Top Ten for 2020/21. It was agreed that inclusive curriculum would be added as a standing FLTQC agenda item. The Chair agreed to draft a paper on what FLTQC will aim to achieve (i.e. what our impact will be) in considering decolonising the curriculum, how and within what timeframe.

Two decades ago focus was given to how the knowledge and practices of indigenous people could be brought into the mainstream. More recently this gained momentum, especially among the student community, with the Rhodes Must Fall movement, and UCL SU 'Why is my curriculum white?' campaign. The aim is to widen educational diversity in our curriculum to make it less Eurocentric and address the wider sentiment of how our education provision is delivered. The word algebra comes from the Arabic 'al-jabr' the title of the book on algebra by Persian mathematician and astronomer al-Khwarizmi. Similarly, the word alkali has Middle Eastern derivatives. The etymology of these words has a historical basis in Medieval Persian / Asian cultures.

Dr Mattacks highlighted the need to increase student engagement to foster a culture of belonging / group ethos, e.g. through peer-to-peer learning and marking.

Action

Chair

2993 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee approved the minutes of the previous Faculty Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (FLTQC) meeting held on 2 December 2020 (Paper 45).

2994 MATTERS ARISING

There were no action points arising from the previous meeting.

The Committee noted an updated student rep priorities 2020/21 paper in response to discussions at the previous meeting (Paper 46).

2995 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair brought the following matters to the attention of the Committee:

- Use of further no detriment powers under IMCA for Semester 1 2020/21.
- Nominations are now open for the University Teaching Awards 2021; deadline for nominations is 24 February 2021.

Chair's action approval of:

- Special Programmes of Study / Assessment Arrangements (see Reserved business).
- Retrospective intermediate change to FdSc Applied Computing to move LP10379 from Semester 1 to Semester 2 due to Covid impact for 2020/21 only (approved 15 December 2020).

2996 UNIT/PROGRAMME CHANGES

The Committee approved the following unit / programme changes from the **Department of Biology and Biochemistry** for 2021/22:

https://cmis.sp.bath.ac.uk/SitePages/Requests_FLTQC.aspx?Dept=Biology%20and%20Biochemistry

 Addition of BB30063 (Vaccines and other health interventions) to Semester 2 of Final Year of BSc (Hons) Biochemistry as an optional unit.

Dr Todd explained that BB30063 was originally created as a unit for biologists, but over a number of years the content of the unit has become more closely interlinked with BB40139 (Pathogenesis and immune evasion by microbes) which is taught in Semester 1. In the last year the overlap has become even more significant. Therefore, it makes sense to include BB30063 in the programme as an optional unit, rather than to continue to only offer it as a DoS approved unit, noting that the unit has seen increased interest from students, particularly in the current environment. Dr Todd confirmed that students had access to the prerequisite units and that the change was unlikely to cause timetabling or workload issues.

2997 DEPARTMENT LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE (DLTQC) MINUTES

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry: 9 December 2020 (Paper 50).

Department of Chemistry: 8 December 2020 (Paper 51).

Department of Computer Science: 24 November 2020 (Paper 52).

Learning Partnerships Office: 11 November 2020 (Programme and Partner Management Committee minutes, Bath College) (Paper 53).

Department of Mathematical Sciences: 25 November 2020 (Paper 54).

Natural Sciences: 25 November 2020 (Paper 55).

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology: 15 December 2020 (Paper 56).

Department of Physics: 8 December 2020 (Paper 57).

2998 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

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In attendance Mrs M L Hallett Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)

Apologies Dr F Bisset Head of Learning Partnerships

Professor S Ward Associate Dean (International)

Action

2999 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee approved the minutes of the previous FLTQC meeting held on 2 December 2020 (Paper 45), and there were no matters arising.

3000 ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK GOOD PRACTICE

The Committee noted the good practice, co-created by the Science Student Council workshop (Paper 48). The Chair explained that the Student Council is a body of representative students from across every Department in the Faculty, and across all years. Paper 48 details the outcomes of a workshop held in December 2020 at which examples of good practice in assessment and feedback were considered. Further resources (Papers 48a and b) are available on BSS Boards.

3001 FEEDBACK FROM COMMITTEES

University Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (ULTQC)

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 29 October 2020 (Paper 49).

3002 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

• Different Department exam arrangements: The student reps highlighted that the different exam arrangements in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, i.e. 3 - 3.5

hour time-limited synchronous exams for Semester 1 2020/21, may result in students not selecting Maths optional units where these would otherwise have been their preference.

- Plans for remote learning in 2021/22: the University will make a statement about plans in May.
- Students in the Departments of Chemistry, Computer Science and Physics had complained that some exams seemed as if they had been designed to be completed in a longer timeframe, than 2 hours. The Chair advised that students should raise any concerns with their Department (Director of Teaching) in the first instance.