

# FLTQC 15 October 2025

Wednesday, 15th October 2025 2:15pm

Teams | Faculty of Science Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee

## Attendees

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### Attended

John Benardis (JB)  
Yarden Brody (YB)  
Andy Burrows (Chair)  
Susan Crennell  
James Foadi  
Marguerite Hallett (Secretary)  
Liz Haynes  
Momna Hejmadi  
Penn Mackintosh (PM)  
Barrie Marsh  
Charareh Pourzand  
Philip Rogers  
Tony Shardlow  
Gan Shermer (GS)  
Arya Wood (AW)

### Did Not Attend

Florin Bisset  
Zoe Burke  
Nikki Hodgson

## 1.0 Welcome and Quorum (3446)

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The Chair welcomed members, particularly new members, noted apologies and observed that the meeting was quorate.

## 2.0 Declaration of Interest (3447)

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There were no declarations of any potential conflicts of interest.

## 3.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (3448)

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The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 June 2025 (Paper 1).

## 4.0 Matters Arising (3449)

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There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

## 5.0 Chair's Business (3450)

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### **Inclusive Education updates for 2025/26** (Paper 2A):

The Chair gave a presentation on the new Inclusive Teaching and Assessment Procedure for 2026/27. The Chair invited members to provide him with feedback and possible stress-tests post-meeting. It was noted that providing all students with teaching materials in advance may reduce student motivation to attend lectures & work with peers. It was agreed that fill-in-the-gap materials (with gaps not pre-filled) are appropriate for both DAP and non-DAP students.

### **NSS 2025** (Paper 2):

It was noted that Biology had performed better across the board compared to the rest of Life Sciences, e.g. Biochemistry / BMS / Pharmacy & Pharmacology. The Chair requested that the Department reflect on this in its EAP / EARE.

The Chair highlighted the variety in responses to questions on 'student voice' across the Faculty; Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science had performed well while others less so. JB reported that students are encouraged, from the outset, to co-create their student experience with the Department. PM highlighted the importance of closing the feedback loop between year groups. GS reported that timetabled (in mid Semester 1 and Semester 2) whole year group forums with DoT and DoSs have been helpful to close the feedback loop beyond the SSLC / Academic Reps. PM flagged that it can be difficult for Academic Reps to get peers to read emails and highlighted the value of establishing an academic community, e.g. via a course-wide group chat.

### **Generic matters arising from academic appeals:**

1. Departments to ensure that where the marks of a first and second marker differ, a detailed account is made of how the final agreed mark was determined (also raised last year). Failure to do so may be deemed to constitute a procedural irregularity.
2. Staff to be aware that all written evidence relating to an appeal may be made available to relevant parties and requested under a Subject Access Request (also raised last year).

### Chair's actions:

- Approval of new student exchange proposals between the Faculty of Science and University of Groningen (Paper 3A) and Technical University of Denmark (DTU) (Paper 3B) from 2025/26 (approved 27 June 2025).
- Approval of minor change to Semester 2 unit SL32027 Advanced Research Techniques (unit content) for 2025/26 (approved 3 July 2025) (Paper 4).
- Approval of minor change to Semester 2 unit MA40177 Scientific Computing (unit content and assessment) for 2025/26 (approved 22 July 2025) (Paper 5).
- Approval of a course change to BSc (Hons) Natural Sciences with Chemistry majors (all variants) for 2026/27: Addition of All Year units CH32021, CH32042, CH32045 & CH32048 (all BSc Chemistry variant projects, from which students will need to select one), to replace All Year unit CH32051 (the Nat Sci specific project; to be withdrawn), since these now have the same credit weighting (15 credits) post-CT (approved 24 July 2025) (Paper 6).
- Reinstatement of SL32064 Conservation and Global Change for 2025/26 (approved 1 August 2025) (no paper).
- Approval by circulation of MSc Clinical Pharmacy and Pharmacotherapy for commencement from April 2026 (approved 8 August 2025) (Paper 7).
- Reinstatement of CM52075 Reinforcement Learning 2 for 2025/26 (approved 3 September 2025) (Paper 8).
- Addition of MA10210 as a prerequisite for CM52038 for 2025/26 (approved 10 September 2025) (no paper).
- Addition of MA12013 and MA10210 and removal of CM12002, CM10194 and CM10195 as prerequisites for CM22014 for 2025/26 (approved 11 September 2025) (no paper).
- Approval of addition of a DoS approved option to Year 4 of BSc (Hons) Computer Science

with Year Long Work Placement / Study Year Abroad for 2025/26 (approved 1 October 2025) (no paper).

## **6.0 Education Action Plans (EAPs): Faculty level concerns (standing agenda item) (3451)**

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The Chair expressed thanks that all departments had established EAPs to be updated during the year, e.g. as data becomes available. The Committee agreed that a set of guideline deadlines throughout the year would be helpful to work to. **Action:** Chair to liaise with Registry to compile a set of guideline deadlines.

## **7.0 Monitoring of timeliness of feedback (standing agenda item) (3452)**

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The Committee noted that the CLT had developed an optional 'feedback centre' monitoring tool, clarification on which would be communicated by the PVC(E) shortly. The emphasis is on ensuring assessment timeliness and communicating to students if/why feedback cannot be provided within the required timeframe. AW reported that while feedback timeliness is important, students generally place higher value on quality feedback that helps them to improve their work. The Chair agreed and noted that this was supported by analysis of the NSS results.

## **8.0 New student exchange proposal between the Faculty of Science and Université Grenoble Alpes (3453)**

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The Committee approved a new student exchange proposal between the Faculty of Science and Université Grenoble Alpes (Paper 9). The Committee requested that BSc and MSci Natural Sciences with Study Year Abroad be included in sections 3.1 and 3.3. The document was amended immediately after the meeting and forwarded to CPAC for approval.

## **9.0 Degree Apprenticeship Quarterly Monitoring Report (3454)**

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The Committee noted the MSc Computer Science Degree Apprenticeship Quarterly Monitoring Report (February - April 2025) (Paper 10). The Chair highlighted that the current cohort was being taught out.

## **10.0 Feedback from Committees (3455)**

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### **Courses and Partnerships Approval Committee (CPAC):**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

7 May 2025 (Paper 11A).

22 May 2025 (Paper 11B)

25 June 2025 (Paper 11C), in particular approval of the addition of a placement to MSc Financial Mathematics with Data Science from 2026/27 (by circulation on 20 May 2025).

**Education, Quality and Standards Committee (EQSC):**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2025 (Paper 12).

**Academic Programmes Committee (APC):**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2025 (Paper 13), in particular approval of the addition of a placement to MSc Financial Mathematics with Data Science from 2026/27.

**Student Experience Advisory Board (SEAB):**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings held on 25 June (Paper 14A) and 18 September (Paper 14B) 2025.

**Education Advisory Board (EAB):**

The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2025 (Paper 15).

## **11.0 Department Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (DLTQC) Minutes (3456)**

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The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting held on:  
**Department of Life Sciences:** 21 May 2025 (Paper 16).

## **12.0 Any Other Business (3457)**

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YB highlighted that in SAMIS all unit marks are rounded to 0 decimal places, which are then used to calculate OS/CAs to 2 decimal points, which lacks accuracy and has a greater effect with larger units. The Chair agreed to add this matter to a list of UGAR related issues to be raised with the Head of Academic Quality and Standards, e.g. not capping reassessment marks at the pass mark, CertHE/DipHE students missing out on an exit award due to condoned marks, and students with mitigation not being permitted to repeat years. The Committee was informed that External Examiners had suggested that the 2% promotion boundary was too wide and had expressed concerns over students being promoted on the basis of final year credit when those with higher OCAs were not.

The Chair reported that plans to establish a Centre for Excellence in Science Education had been approved by the Dean and asked GS to explain the rationale behind this. GS explained that the Centre would support staff on education specialist track contracts by sharing good practice, fostering collaboration, aiding applications for external funding for pedagogic research that has wider impact and strategic focus, establishing Faculty-wide / cross-institutional projects, and holding workshops with external speakers. GS reported that there are also plans to reinvigorate the institutional Pedagogical Research (PedR) Network, to also include students. YB highlighted the need to ensure connection into department-specific activity. The Committee supported these activities, though noted it was important that they work well together to avoid duplication and/or dilution of effort.