



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Microsoft Teams
Date Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook Dr R Bradford Professor A Burrows Dr S Flower Dr N Fotaki Professor M Fraser Professor C Frost Professor M Hejmadi Dr R James Professor M Jones Mr K Maharaj Professor T Mays Professor N McHugh Professor P Milewski Dr A Preston Dr F Qin Dr T Shardlow Professor J Sivaloganathan Professor D Tosh Professor C Wilson Dr M Wright	Dean of Science (Chair) Department of Computer Science Head of Department of Chemistry Department of Chemistry Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Department of Computer Science Deputy Dean of Science Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) Head of Department of Physics Department of Chemistry UG student representative 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 Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Biology and Biochemistry Associate Dean (Research) Department of Computer Science
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett Ms A L Harper	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary) Faculty of Science (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset Mr T Cheung Dr A Gorbach Miss F Jackson Dr G Stothart Professor S Ward Dr J White	Learning Partnerships Office PGT student representative Department of Physics Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community) Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Associate Dean (International) Head of Natural Sciences

Action

7105 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 13 January 2021 (Paper 129) and there were no matters arising.

7106 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair reported the following matters:

- Following a report by Cairneagle consultants, the University is looking more holistically at approaches to CPD and short courses, building on our experiences from Wiley and reviewing other potential suppliers. Dr R Hourizi and Professor S

Brammer (SoM Dean) will produce a paper based on the findings of the consultancy report.

- The REF paperwork was signed off at UEB yesterday. Updated Department webpages, to reflect the environment statement, will go live before the Easter break. The Chair thanked Depts for their work in pulling together the paperwork, and the Associate Dean (Research), the Faculty Coordinator (Research) and the Faculty Marketing and Communications Manager.
- Plans are well developed to offer '...with Entrepreneurship and Innovation' across all our UG programmes, as an alternative to the placement year. A proposal, led by the Deputy Dean of Science and Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), has been discussed at Faculty Executive and will come to a future BoS meeting.
- University Strategy to improve research income is a priority for the Faculty currently as it appears to be underperforming in comparison with cognate disciplines in the Faculty of E&D based on £/m².
- Discussions are ongoing for teaching in 2021/22. Most universities seem to be planning for some form of social distancing still to be in place.
- Concerns are emerging around the ability to provide placements as some companies are moving operations out of the UK and into the EU. The University is monitoring the situation closely.
- The University Research Committee has been renamed the University Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee as it takes on a wider remit. Knowledge Exchange will also be embedded in the Faculty Research Committee.
- Bath Beacons: The Board (for which expressions of interest re. membership had been advertised) has now been established, and includes Professor M Davidson, Professor J Mason, Professor E O'Neill and Dr T Smith.
- The Chair congratulated Mr J Withington (who shares the UG student rep role on BoS with Mr K Maharaj) on being elected as SU Education Officer for 2021/22.

7107 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

Department of Biology and Biochemistry 12 (PGT) (Paper 137A) and 17 (UG) (Paper 137B) February 2021.

Department of Chemistry 10 February 2021 (Paper 138).

Department of Computer Science 30 November 2020 (UG) (Paper 139A), 3 (PGT) (Paper 139B) and 9 (UG) (Paper 139C) February 2021.

Department of Mathematical Sciences 17 February 2021 (Paper 140).

Natural Sciences 10 February 2021 (Paper 141).

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology 9 December 2020 (Paper 142).

Department of Physics 25 November 2020 (Paper 143A) and 10 February 2021 (Paper 143B).

7108 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.



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	Dr R Bradford	Department of Computer Science
	Professor A Burrows	Head of Department of Chemistry
	Dr S Flower	Department of Chemistry
	Dr N Fotaki	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Professor M Fraser	Department of Computer Science
	Professor C Frost	Deputy Dean of Science
	Professor M Hejmadi	Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching)
	Dr R James	Head of Department of Physics
	Professor M Jones	Department of Chemistry
	Mr K Maharaj	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 F Qin	School of Management
	Dr T Shardlow	Department of Mathematical Sciences
Professor J Sivaloganathan	Department of Mathematical Sciences	
Professor D Tosh	Department of Biology and Biochemistry	
Professor C Wilson	Associate Dean (Research)	
Dr M Wright	Department of Computer Science	
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)
	Ms A L Harper	Faculty of Science (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset	Learning Partnerships Office
	Mr T Cheung	PGT student representative
	Dr A Gorbach	Department of Physics
	Miss F Jackson	Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community)
	Dr G Stothart	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
	Professor S Ward	Associate Dean (International)
Dr J White	Head of Natural Sciences	

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7109 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 13 January 2021 (Paper 129) and there were no matters arising.

7110 REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board received details of awards accepted by Research and Innovation Services from 6 January until 16 March 2021 (Paper 130). The Chair highlighted that just under £4million had been awarded since 6 January, over 30 grants.

The Chair congratulated in particular:

- Dr David Gurevich, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, for his award of £1,075,243 from The Wellcome Trust for research related to his Henry Dale Research Fellowship.
- Professor Adele Murrell, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, for her award of £414,271 from The Leverhulme Trust.
- Professor Toby Jenkins, Department of Chemistry, for his award of £407,563 from the EPSRC for research into Plasma-activated Antimicrobial Hydrogel Therapy (PAHT) for combating infections in diabetic foot ulcers.
- Professor Tim Birks, Department of Physics, for his award of £802,197 (incorrectly recorded as £521,427 in Paper 130) from the EPSRC for research into U-Care: Deep Ultraviolet Light Therapies.

7111 SEMESTER 1 SCALING REPORT AND ERRORS IN EXAMINATION PAPERS

The Board considered scaling of unit marks (Paper 131A) and errors in examination papers (Paper 131B) in Semester 1 2020/21.

The Board noted that there had been 24 instances of scaling in Semester 1 this year (compared to 9 in Semester 1 last year): 1 in Biology and Biochemistry (compared to 0 last year), 1 in Chemistry (compared to 0 last year), 1 in Computer Science (compared to 6 last year), 17 in Maths (compared to 2 last year), 1 in Natural Sciences (compared to 0 last year) and 3 in Physics (compared to 1 last year), including 10 units where the mean marks were not atypical (MA20218, MA30044, MA30237, MA30252, MA40044, MA40171, MA40198, MA40254, MA50181 and XX30001). There had been 44 instances (excluding IFY units) of means that were atypical but not scaled (compared to 32 last year).

The Chair highlighted that of the 36 Computer Science units listed, 18 had mean marks in the atypical range. Professor Fraser explained that online students take units sequentially, rather than in parallel, which helps them to achieve high marks (making the units harder does not address the problem as students just work harder and then complain about workload); the Department is continuing to work on calibrating the online units. CM20254 Data Structures and Algorithms had a high mean mark of 78.57% due to an outstanding cohort and lecturer. Professor Fraser reported that the DLTQC would reconsider first year programming units, which tend to have high mean marks due to the high range of students' skills on entry to the programme, with a view to providing more challenging material. The Chair agreed that the DLTQC should review units which had mean marks in the atypical range for a number of years.

The Chair highlighted that the Department of Mathematical Sciences also had units which had been scaled or had mean marks in the atypical range for a number of years. Dr Shardlow reported that online examinations had resulted in mark inflation this year. Dr Shardlow added that some Departments had released pre and post-scaling marks to students which had caused problems for the Department of Mathematical Sciences as it had not done the same. The Chair reminded all Departments of the need to adhere to the 'principles for communicating BEU decisions about scaling' in QA35 (Appendix 4, Annex 3), in particular avoiding reference to 'before and after' marks (e.g. amount of marks added or subtracted or values of multipliers). The UG student rep commented that it would be helpful if Departments explained to students what was meant by 'rotation'. It was noted that the 'principles for communicating BEU decisions about scaling' in QA35 advised that Departments provide a link to explanation of any specialist language / jargon used. The Board agreed that adherence to the QA35 principles was important to ensure consistency across the University in how scaling decisions are communicated to students.

The Chair highlighted that PA40214 Recent Advances in Drug Discovery had mean marks in the atypical range this year, last year and in 2017/18. Professor McHugh

explained that this was an MSc unit and the cohort had been strong.

7112 FACULTY LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 20 January (Paper 132A) and 3 March (Paper 132B) 2021.

7113 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 2 December 2020 (Paper 133A), 20 January (Paper 133B) and 17 February (Paper 133C) 2021.

7114 FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE (FDSC)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 10 December 2020 (Paper 134A) and 11 February 2021 (Paper 134B).

7115 FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE (FRC)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 8 December 2020 (Paper 135A) and 15 February 2021 (Paper 135B).

7116 FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 12 January (Paper 136A), 9 February (Paper 136B) and 9 March (Paper 136C) 2021.

7117 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair asked if the Board was prepared to delegate to him authority to sign off on a Level 2 (GCSE) provider to be associated with the MSc Computer Science Degree Apprenticeship (DA). This was to enable the Department of Computer Science to accept applicants from outside of the UK education system (now working in the UK) who have had difficulty in providing Level 2 equivalent documentation of their English and Mathematics qualifications. Professor Fraser added that the students concerned were of an outstanding calibre; it was just a matter of being able to meet the DA regulations. The Board agreed that the Chair could make this decision on its behalf, out of cycle.