

# FLTQC 24 January 2024

Wednesday, 24th January 2024 2:15pm

Teams | Faculty of Science Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee

## Attendees

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### Attended

Zoe Burke

Andrew Burrows (Chair)

Susan Crennell

Marguerite Hallett (Secretary)

Liz Haynes

Zack Lyons

Sarah Paine

Philip Rogers

Tony Shardlow

Gan Shermer

Paul Snow

Gitte Sparding (Observer)

### Did Not Attend

Florin Bisset

Sarah Upendra Chandratreya

Ffion Gould

Stephen Ward

Miranda Yafi

## 1.0 Welcome and Quorum (3255)

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

## 2.0 Declaration of Interest (3256)

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There were no declarations of any potential conflicts of interest.

## 3.0 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (3257)

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The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 November 2023 (Paper 48).

## 4.0 Matters Arising (3258)

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The Committee noted the following matter arising:

M3241 Integrated PhD CDT major change proposals:

With regard to how the SAMBa part-time route over 2 years would mesh with the Curriculum Transformed version of the course starting 2025/26, it had been clarified that a special programme structure would be required for part-time students starting in 2024/25, to include a bespoke Research Project Work unit.

## 5.0 Chair's Business (3259)

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

- Further updated Faculty policy on examination paper scrutiny (Paper 48i) (late paper): The Committee noted the additional points included, in response to recent developments.
- The deadline for EARE reports is 9 February, for consideration at an extraordinary meeting of FLTQC on 19 February. Reports had already been received for Chemistry and Natural Sciences. The Committee noted that the EARE template requires comment from the Associate Dean (Education) / Dean. The Chair agreed to provide comment in advance of FLTQC, for reports submitted by the deadline. The Dean will be asked for comment post-FLTQC and prior to the University deadline of 21 February.
- NSS 2024 launches at the University on 5 February (although it is live currently). Members were asked to copy in studentengagement@bath.ac.uk to emails sent to students about NSS to help the University evidence its Project Communication Plan to the OfS. The University has chosen to include the same 6 additional questions as last year on assessment, employability & skills, environmental sustainability, learning community, welfare resources & facilities, and work placements, plus 2 extra internal questions on overall satisfaction and 1 thing students would change about their course / department. The number of students who complete the optional questions is less than those who complete the main questions, but these are nevertheless deemed worthwhile. The target response rate is 75%. Results will be released in the summer.
- Dr James Foadi from the Department of Mathematical Sciences has been appointed Faculty Assessment and Feedback Lead.

Chair's actions:

- Approval of withdrawal of MA50251 from 2024/25 (approved 11 December 2023) (Paper 49). The Committee noted that withdrawal of this unit from MSc Mathematics with Data Science for Industry (and with placement variant) had subsequently been processed in Curriculum Planner.
- Approval of assessment pattern change for SL500138 (an AP3T unit) for January 2024 (approved 21 December 2023) (Paper 50).

## 6.0 Results from a student survey on introducing a consolidation week (3260)

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The Committee considered, in the absence of any Student Reps, results from a student survey on introducing a consolidation week (Paper 51). The Committee noted that the survey, as it currently stood, had been completed by 50 students, 48 of whom were from 1 course (Biomedicine), with 1 from Biochemistry and 1 from Pharmacology. Consequently, there was uncertainty as to the conclusions that could be drawn from the data.

Dr Z Burke commented that the matter had been discussed at DLTQC; the students were keen and consolidation weeks already exist for some bioscience units. However, a consolidation week would not be possible for some courses, e.g. for pharmacy it would result in content not being covered. Students at different levels appeared to be struggling to keep up with content generally, so having a consolidation week could be beneficial. The Committee noted, however,

that this year's Year 1 cohort should be benefiting from Curriculum Transformation and the streamlining of content. Dr P Rogers commented that in order to accommodate a consolidation week the academic year would need to start a week earlier, at the end of September, and the inter-semester break would have to be abolished. Most other Schools of Pharmacy have, by now, completed their examinations and are teaching Semester 2. The Chair recalled much discussion, a few years ago, about the shape of the academic year, e.g. to reduce the Semester 1 examination period to generate more space. Dr P Rogers recalled the University once having 3 terms with examinations only at the end of the year.

Dr P Snow reported that 'transition to University' would be discussed at the DoS /T forum next week. Dr P Snow commented that at A level, aside from learning to pass the exam, students are taught a subject, then sit test papers on it to wrap up the whole subject, then move on to a new topic. However, in Physics, students receive lectures, followed by problem sheets which are then reviewed in problem classes at the same time as students are being taught new material. Consequently, feedback from students relates to consistent and persistent, continuous streams of, new material, that is not sufficiently compartmentalised. The Committee acknowledged the need to help students adjust to being at university, where the learning is different to how it is in schools. Dr Z Burke added that students appear to be seeking too much material, which is hindering them from navigating the content at a speed that suits them, e.g. asking for comprehensive lecture notes to accompany in-person and recorded lectures and the associated resources on Moodle. Dr S Crennell added that students appear to want the textbook at the beginning of a unit to which all lectures must adhere, similar to how lessons may be taught in school. Students need help in appreciating that the extent of knowledge required is not limited to a textbook. The Chair commented that this message is likely conveyed at induction, but probably needs reinforcing throughout the year.

Dr S Shermer reported that the Chemistry SSLC had discussed the matter and a notable proportion of students had expressed that they wanted a reading week, not to revise or consolidate learning, but simply to have some time off, which could be beneficial for mental and physical health. Students had reported that they find Semester 1 particularly challenging because there is no half-term break.

The Chair requested that all departments have these discussions at their SSLCs and that if the resultant decision is not to have a consolidation week, to ensure that an explanation as to why it is not feasible, e.g. work displaced, timetable for rest of year unworkable, is fed back to students.

## **7.0 MPharm 50% pass mark UGAR exemption request (3261)**

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The Committee approved for recommendation to EQSC a request for exemption from UGAR for MPharm (Hons) Pharmacy, to permit implementation of the 50% pass mark for all its FHEQ Level 7 units from 2024/25, i.e. 2 years ahead of schedule (Paper 51i) (late paper).

Dr P Rogers reported that he had expected that this request would be included in UGAR when it was written, as it had always been the intention. Due to GPhC requirements, Years 1, 2 and 3 of the new MPharm, under Curriculum Transformation, had to be delivered this academic year (2023/24). This meant that the first Final Year of the new MPharm would run in 2024/25, as opposed to 2026/27 as for all other Integrated Masters CT courses. As part of the GPhC Part 1 reaccreditation, a process for assessment standard setting as part of an assessment strategy was explained to the GPhC, which included the 50% pass mark. Mrs L Joscelyne had been aware of the need for this and had set up processes in the background in SAMIS for it to happen. Dr P Rogers reported that students were aware that this was going to happen but would be reminded before the commencement of the next academic year. Handbooks would be updated and marking schemes revised to compress a 40-59% pass category into a 50-59% category. The Chair commented that it would seem odd to have a transformed course that had a pass mark of 40% for 2 years for its Level 7 units, which then became 50% afterwards.

## 8.0 Professional accreditation reports (3262)

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The Committee noted the following professional accreditation reports:

1. NHS England accreditation of MSc Advanced Clinical Pharmacy Practice (Paper 52). The Chair noted that the report had been positive and had made a couple of commendations.
2. General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) Step 2 accreditation of MPharm (Hons) Pharmacy at the University of Plymouth (Paper 53).

## 9.0 Department Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (DLTQC) Minutes (3263)

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The Committee noted the minutes of the meetings held on:

**Department of Life Sciences:** 6 December 2023 (Paper 54A) and 10 January 2024 (Paper 54B).

**Department of Chemistry:** 18 December 2023 (Paper 55).

**Learning Partnerships Office:** 21 November 2023 (Programme and Partner Management Committee minutes, Bath College) (Paper 56).

**Department of Mathematical Sciences:** 1 November (Paper 57A) and 6 December (Paper 57B) 2023.

**Department of Physics:** 13 December 2023 (Paper 58).

## 10.0 Any Other Business (3264)

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There was none.