



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Microsoft Teams
Date Wednesday 2 March 2022 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook Dr R Bradford Dr Z Burke Professor A Burrows Mr J Dean Professor K Edler Dr C Edmead Dr N Fotaki Professor M Fraser Dr A Gorbach Professor M Hejmadi Dr R James Professor M Jones Professor B Larijani Mr K Maharaj Dr G Mathlin Professor T Mays Professor N McHugh Professor P Milewski Dr F Qin Dr T Shardlow Dr G Shermer Professor D Tosh Professor S Ward Dr M Wright	Dean of Science (Chair) Department of Computer Science Department of Biology and Biochemistry Head of Department of Chemistry Postgraduate Taught student representative Associate Dean (Research) Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (for minute 7254) Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Head of Department of Computer Science Department of Physics Associate Dean (Education) Head of Department of Physics Deputy Dean of Science Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (for minute 7254) Undergraduate student representative Department of Physics Faculty of Engineering and Design (joined at 3pm) Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences School of Management Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Chemistry Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry Associate Dean (International) 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 Miss M Crossman Professor J Sivaloganathan Dr G Stothart	Learning Partnerships Office Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community) Department of Mathematical Sciences Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Action

7251 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 12 January 2022 (Paper 151).

7252 MATTERS ARISING

M7232 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

The Board noted that a revised research income target in the Research Centre for

Mathematical Biology (CMB) review report had been approved under BoS Chair's action on 27 January 2022 (see Paper 177).

7253 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

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

- The Chair congratulated Professor Matthew Jones on his appointment as Deputy Dean and welcomed Dr Gary Mathlin as Professor Jones' replacement as Academic Assembly member for the remainder of the academic year.
- Professor Mike Fraser is leaving the University at the end of March. Professor Eamonn O'Neill will be Head of Department (HoD) of Computer Science in the interim and will work in parallel with Professor Fraser over the next month. The Chair thanked Professor Fraser for his contributions as HoD at Bath.
- The Department of Mathematical Sciences has received approval to hold in-person examinations in Semester 2 for units MA10210, MA10212, MA10236, MA10207 and MA10274. Dr Shardlow enquired as to whether there was a Faculty strategy for reverting more widely back to invigilated in-person examinations next year. The Chair explained that the Faculty is waiting for University guidance on future assessment. Mr Maharaj enquired as to how students studying remotely would be affected by in-person examinations. Professor Milewski stated that no first year Maths students had requested to study remotely. The Chair added that it is anticipated that next year students would not be given the option of remote study.
- Senate and Council have signed off on the proposal to create a new Department of Life Sciences. The Chair thanked Professor David Tosh and Professor Neil McHugh for their help and input in getting the proposal to this stage. SVRG have signed off on a new HoD position. The aim is for the vision for the new Department to be considered by UEB at the 3rd May meeting.
- Research issues: there is a need for greater visibility of large grants. HoDs and FRKEC will have greater oversight and knowledge of large grants being submitted, so help and guidance can be provided as appropriate. There is ongoing activity in Mathematical Sciences, with successes in the pipeline.
- UG applications are around the same level as they were this time last year. P&P and Physics have seen increases of approx. 10%. B&B has seen a decrease of approx. 10% (after a bumper year last year). Overall Home applications have increased by nearly 3%, but Overseas applications have decreased by 14%. PGT applications are down by 10% (mainly in Computer Science, after a bumper year last year); applications are dominated by Overseas students (approx. 90%).
Professor James stated that while Physics applications had increased, offers had been slow to go out; they are 200 behind last year. The Chair stated that this issue had also affected Engineering and had been raised with the Recruitment and Admissions Working Group. The Director of Recruitment and Admissions had provided assurance that the pace of offers going out would be accelerated.

7254 MSc PRECISION MEDICINE

The Board received an update on the concept and plans from Professor Banafshe Larijani, Professor Stephen Ward and Dr Christine Edmead (Paper 152).

Professor Larijani explained that the programme is designed to enhance the University's internationalisation profile. The international market research for the programme is currently being finalised. The concept of Precision Medicine sits in the field of healthcare and biomedicine. The programme is highly interdisciplinary, e.g. it will train mathematicians in molecular biology / medicine and clinicians in applied mathematics. Students will receive training, with input from industry, to enable them to complete a PhD and/or pursue a career in healthcare management, regulatory fields or entrepreneurship. Students will register, part-time or full-time, at either Bath, the University of Bordeaux or

Texas A&M University and will complete units delivered via Moodle. A letter of intent has been received from the University of Bordeaux, who are willing to follow Bath's QA requirements. Students will complete a project at the university where they are registered or online, depending on the projects available. Other lab-based units will have virtual labs. Dr Wright suggested linking from Moodle out to external online platforms for virtual labs. The unit of Clinical Application will be shared across all three universities, i.e. students will study a common curriculum. Students will work with staff in laboratories at the university with which they are registered, or in hospital clinics, e.g. at the RUH. If successful, in subsequent years it may be possible to offer scholarships to enable students to move between the three universities.

The registration fees will be broadly similar across the three universities. It may be possible to cap the number of students who register at each university so that it is equitable in terms of finances for the first year at least. Staff at Stanford University have agreed to deliver lectures and workshops on the programme. Harvard University and the University of Oxford have also expressed an interest in contributing to the delivery of the programme.

The Chair commented that the concept is exciting and ground-breaking, but it is important to ensure that the programme is financially viable.

7255 REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board received details of awards accepted by Research and Innovation Services from 5 January until 22 February 2022 (Paper 153). The Chair highlighted that there had been 21 grants of approx. £2 million in total since the last meeting.

The Chair congratulated in particular:

- Dr Paul De Bank, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology, for his award of £577,317 from Applied Molecular Transport (AMT) for research into AMT Amendment 6. The Chair commented that AMT is one of the major industrial funders of the University.

7256 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

The Board approved, following review by the Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee (FRKEC) on 14 February 2022, the continuation of the **Research Centre for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI)**, from 1 March 2022 until 28 February 2025 (Paper 154).

Professor Edler commented that the CTI did not use the standard Research Centre Review template. FRKEC had been presented with a broad vision of the Centre and had obtained some more specific information in the meeting as detailed in the minutes. The Chair supported renewal of the CTI for a further 3 years but requested that FRKEC obtain information on metrics such as research income and outputs, and value added (e.g. cross-disciplinary collaboration, reach out to industry), in order to quantify and measure the Centre's success. The Chair commented that it was unlikely that the CTI's significant requests, i.e. a budget of £600,000 in the first year, plus £100,000 for the final two years, guaranteed time on HPC and MC² and two prize fellows, could be granted. The Chair requested clarification as to whether the resource requests not being granted would impact on the CTI's vision. The Board agreed that the Chair could approve a response from the CTI on these matters under Chair's action (for noting at the next meeting).

FRKEC

7257 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 13 December 2021 (Paper 155A) and 17 January 2022 (Paper 155B).

7258 FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE (FDSC)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 9 December 2021 (Paper 156A) and 10 February 2022 (Paper 156B).

7259 FACULTY RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 17 January (Paper 157A) and 14 February (Paper 157B) 2022.

7260 FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 11 January (Paper 158A) and 8 February (Paper 158B) 2022.

7261 FACULTY LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2022 (Paper 159).

7262 STAFF, STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted minutes of the meetings held in the following Departments:

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology: 1 December 2021 (Paper 160).

7263 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Research Centre Review template: current template (Paper 160A) and proposed changes (Paper 160B).

The Chair noted that any changes to the template would need to be approved by Senate. Professor Edler explained that the suggestions are based on the premise that Centres do not receive funding from the University, so Reviews should be relatively light touch, while retaining the measures of accountability; Centres should report on the advantages that being a Centre has provided, e.g. name and prestige and what that has enabled them to achieve.

It is proposed:

- a) that the Director's Executive Summary be replaced with a narrative on the key research activities of the Centre, and the values / advantages / changes created by the existence of the Centre that would not otherwise have been possible, and on the Centre's effectiveness, based on its aims / goals and remit.
- b) to no longer require supporting comments from the HoD, given the interdisciplinary nature of Centres.
- c) to remove the Data Sheet completely since it simply lists all members of the Centre and their grants / PhD students, whether they are related to the Centre or not.
- d) to replace the 'Performance over the review period' section with a section that requires the top 5 most significant achievements in the areas of i) research funding, ii) outputs, iii) knowledge exchange and iv) impact, with concrete examples and/or metrics generated directly through the existence of the Centre, not just the individual activities of core members. This section will also be used to indicate how targets previously set in the last review have been met and will list the core and affiliate academic and research staff associated with the Centre.
- e) to replace the 'Metrics for the next period' with a narrative on how the Centre Director plans to maintain and increase the benefits of being a core and affiliate member of the Centre and how to maintain and improve the outcomes and gains with concrete targets. This section will list the Centre's KPIs.
- f) to rephrase the section on Sustainability, keeping the SWOT analysis.
- g) to remove section 5 as the data will be covered in the 'Performance over the review period' section.

The Board agreed that the suggested changes would help improve the evaluation of Centres and their impact, and focus attention on the purpose of the particular Centre. Professor Fraser suggested amalgamating iii) knowledge exchange and iv) impact into one heading [under d) above]. Professor Milewski suggested including, as a metric of value added, the number of papers authored by, and grants awarded to, staff across different Departments, Faculties and with industry, as appropriate for Centres. Professor Mays suggested involving the Associate Deans (Research) in the other Faculties in the revisions to the template.