



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Microsoft Teams
Date Wednesday 18 May 2022 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook Dr R Bradford Dr Z Burke Professor A Burrows Dr A Gorbach Professor M Hejmadi Dr R James Professor M Jones Dr M Lennox Dr G Mathlin Professor N McHugh Professor E O'Neill Dr F Qin Professor T Rogers Dr G Shermer Professor J Sivaloganathan Dr G Stothart 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 Department of Physics Associate Dean (Education) Head of Department of Physics Deputy Dean of Science Faculty of Engineering and Design Department of Physics Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Head of Department of Computer Science School of Management Associate Dean (Research) Department of Chemistry Department of Mathematical Sciences Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 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 Mr J Dean Dr N Fotaki Professor P Milewski Mr J Ogunyemi Dr T Shardlow	Learning Partnerships Office Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community) Postgraduate Taught student representative Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences Undergraduate student representative Department of Mathematical Sciences

Action

7271 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 2 March 2022 (Paper 180).

**7272 MATTERS ARISING
M7256 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES**

The Board noted that the Research Centre for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) will update their metrics following a governance board meeting at which these were discussed. The revised metrics will be approved under BoS Chair's action (for noting at the next meeting).

CTI

7273 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

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

- The Chair welcomed Dr Matthew Lennox as a new member from the Faculty of Engineering and Design, replacing Professor Tim Mays, and Professor Tim Rogers as new Associate Dean (Research).
- There were problems running Semester 1 Online Unit Evaluations which negatively affected response rates. The Academic Staff Committee will take this into account when considering probation and promotion reports. It is expected that a new software solution will be implemented for Semester 1, 2022/23.
- Degree Apprenticeship Ofsted inspection: The University was given 48 hours' notice of a monitoring visit which took place 5-6 May. The Department of Computer Science has the largest cohort of Degree Apprentices at the University. The Chair thanked Dr M Wright, Dr J Hyde and Ms A Harper, in particular, for ensuring the required documentation was ready and available for the inspectors. An interim report has been received for feedback on factual accuracy, following which a formal report will be published. The evaluation focussed on Leadership and Management, Quality of Education and Training and Safeguarding and the judgement was that 'reasonable progress' had been made in all three areas. A full monitoring visit will take place within 24 months, to be overseen by the Apprenticeships Compliance Manager, who is due to start in June.
- Department of Life Sciences update: Senate and Council have approved that the new department will come into being from 1 August 2022. Professor Adele Murrell has been appointed as interim HoD, following interviews of 4 candidates from the constituent departments. Comments on the vision for the new department have been received back from an external review panel and will be incorporated into the vision prior to it being considered for approval by UEB on 31 May. This will enable recruitment of the new HoD, which will be through an external process.
- Professor M Hejmadi has been reappointed as AD(E) for the next 3 years.
- An external appointment process has commenced for the new Dean. The Chair will officially step down as Dean on 31 July. Interim arrangements will be announced shortly.
- REF 2021 results: there were successes across the Faculty. P&P had a strong set of research output, with their Grade Point Average (GPA) placing them 3rd in the country. B&B had over 50% of their research output classed as 4*, placing them in the top 10. Chemistry had 50% of their research output classed as 4*, placing them in the top 10, and also had 50% of their research impact classed as 4*. Physics had 63% of their research impact classed as 4* with a GPA of 3.64, placing them in the top 10. Maths had nearly 60% of their research output classed as 4* with a GPA of 3.55, placing them in the top 5. Comp Sci climbed 7 places in the overall GPA league tables which was one of the highest climbs across the University and 98% of their research output was classed as either 3* or 4*. The market share increased for the University which is important as it determines the share of the Quality-related Research (QR) income coming to the University. The Chair thanked Professor Chick Wilson, in his absence, in particular, for pulling together the Faculty's REF submission.

7274 PGR SCHOLARSHIP PROPOSAL

The Board approved a proposal for Graduate Research Scholarships: PhD students who also have formal teaching responsibilities (Paper 181). Professor Matthew Jones explained that the Paper proposes PGR scholarships for students who study for 4 years at Bath and spend approx. ¼ of each year doing formal teaching. The proposal is based on an approach adopted by the School of Management. The aim of the proposal is to alleviate some of the pressure at pinch points on teaching associated with increased UG and PGT numbers over recent years. The Paper was considered by the FRKEC this week which recommended that the confirmation report is completed within 18 months, instead of 12 months, to provide greater flexibility. Professor Hejmadi enquired as to the number of studentships per year. Professor Jones stated that numbers would be dependent on departmental finances, although

3 studentships were earmarked as part of the planning round for Comp Sci to help support delivery of their online MSc courses, and 2 studentships for Chemistry. Future allocations of scholarships will become part of cross-Faculty discussions going into planning. Professor Hejmadi enquired as to whether the PhD students would be given writing-up time after the 4 years. Professor Jones explained that, ideally, the PhD students would write-up within the 4 year period but they may be able to get a 1 year extension approved by the Doctoral BoS. Professor Sivaloganathan suggested that the Paper be amended to include a request that departments consider the distribution of teaching allocation to PGR scholarships in order to protect time for their PhD research. The Board agreed that this could be incorporated into point 10. Dr Wright asked how much notice departments would be given to allow time to recruit students. Professor Jones explained that this would depend on when the finances could be released; it is expected recruitment will be possible for 2022/23. Professor O'Neill commented that an early release / allocation, e.g. in January, is important for all University Research Studentships in order to give departments a good chance of recruiting the best students, in competition with other universities.

7275 REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board received details of awards accepted by Research and Innovation Services from 23 February until 10 May 2022 (Paper 182). The Chair highlighted that there had been 35 grants awarded across the Faculty with a roughly equal spread across departments since the last meeting.

The Chair congratulated in particular:

- Professor Tony Perry, Department of Biology and Biochemistry, for his award of £766,047 from the MRC for research into New Perspectives on Imprinting Disease.
- Dr Alex Davis, Department of Physics, for his award of £983,928 from the EPSRC for research into A Photonic Crystal Integrated Squeezer.
- Dr Peter Mosley, Department of Physics, for his award of £520,384 from Innovate UK for research into The Quantum Data Centre of the Future.

7276 SEMESTER 1 SCALING REPORT AND ERRORS IN EXAMINATION PAPERS

The Board approved scaling of unit marks (Paper 183A) and errors in examination papers (Paper 183B) in Semester 1 2021/22.

The Board noted that there were 21 instances of scaling in Semester 1 this year (compared to 24 in Semester 1 last year): 1 in Biology and Biochemistry (compared to 1 last year), 2 in Chemistry (compared to 1 last year), 6 in Computer Science (compared to 1 last year), 10 in Maths (compared to 17 last year) and 2 in Physics (compared to 3 last year), including 6 units where the mean marks were not atypical (CM10227, CM20254, MA20224, MA30237, MA30252, MA50196). There were 25 instances (excluding IFY units) of means that were atypical but not scaled (compared to 44 last year). The Chair commented that, overall, this demonstrates an improvement in setting assessments. While there were some recurrent units with atypical means, departments appeared to be taking action to address these where they related to assessment design. The Chair encouraged a continuation of this practice in order to keep the amount of scaling to a minimum.

The Chair noted that there were 13 errors in examination papers in Semester 1, mostly typographical, which was not out of line with previous years. The Chair thanked departments for their due diligence in ensuring examination scripts are checked and External Examiners' comments taken on board, to ensure that errors in examination papers are kept to a minimum.

7277 REPORT ON THE USE OF STUDENT TEACHING ASSISTANTS 2021/22

The Board monitored the involvement of, and arrangements for, students undertaking teaching activities, to report on this activity to EQSC in June:

Biology and Biochemistry (Paper 184A)

Chemistry (Paper 184B)
Computer Science (Paper 184C)
Mathematical Sciences (Paper 184D)
Pharmacy and Pharmacology (Paper 184E)
Physics (Paper 184F)

The HoDs commented that Student Teaching Assistants were essential in supporting teaching in laboratories / practicals.

7278 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

The Board approved, following review by the Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee on 11 April 2022, the continuation of the **Research Centre for REal and Virtual Environments Augmentation Labs (REVEAL)**, from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2025 (Paper 185). It was agreed that more specific KPIs should be requested from the Centre. The Board agreed that the revised KPIs could be approved under BoS Chair's action (for noting at the next meeting).

**FRKEC/
REVEAL**

7279 FACULTY LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 16 March (Paper 186A) and 27 April (Paper 186B) 2022.

7280 FACULTY RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 14 March (Paper 187A) and 11 April (Paper 187B) 2022.

7281 FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 8 March (Paper 188A) and 12 April (Paper 188B) 2022.

7282 FACULTY DOCTORAL STUDIES COMMITTEE (FDSC)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2022 (Paper 189).

7283 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 14 February (Paper 190A) and 23 March (Paper 190B) 2022.

7284 STAFF STUDENT LIAISON COMMITTEE (SSLC) MEETINGS

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on

Department of Biology and Biochemistry 21 February (PGT) (Paper 191A), 2 March (Paper 191B) and 6 April (Paper 191C) 2022.

Department of Chemistry 16 February (Paper 192A), 23 March (Paper 192B) and 27 April (Paper 192C) 2022.

Department of Computer Science 15 February (Paper 193A), 15 March (Paper 193B) and 23 March (PGT) (Paper 193C) 2022.

Department of Mathematical Sciences 16 February (Paper 194A) and 2 March (Paper 194B) 2022.

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology 17 February (PGT) (Paper 195A), 9 March (Paper 195B) and 30 March (Paper 195C) 2022.

Department of Physics 16 February (Paper 196A) and 23 March (Paper 196B) 2022.

7285 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.