Faculty of Engineering & Design Board of Studies Minutes (Unreserved)

Wednesday, 17th May 2023 2:15 pm

via TEAMS | Faculty of Engineering & Design Board of Studies

Attendees

Attended

Kirill Cherednichenko

John Chew

Ricardo Codinhoto

Charles Courtney

Jos Darling

Mirella Di Lorenzo

Jeffrey Gavin

Sabina Gheduzzi

Vaggelis Giannikas

Marion Harney

Andrew Heath

Carmelo Herdes Moreno

Tim Ibell

Nigel Johnston

Tristan Kershaw

Davide Mattia

Benjamin Metcalfe

Emma Emanuelsson Patterson

Andrew Plummer

Alexander Robinson

Anointing Rueben

David Stacey

Peter Wilson

CONFIRMED

Apologies

Jannis Wenk

2246 Welcome and Quorum

Apologies Received from:

Jannis Wenk

The Chair welcomed members, noted apologies and confirmed quorum.

2247 Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked for any declarations of interest which were not going to be declared during subsequent discussions. There were none.

2248 Minutes of the Previous meeting - ED2022-23/095

Purpose - For Noting

The unreserved minutes of the meeting of the Board of Studies held on 1 March 2023 (ED2022-23/095) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

2249 Actions and Matters Arising - ED2022-23/096

Purpose - For Noting

The Board noted updates on matters arising from the previous meeting. The following matters were completed;
Minute 2229 Monitoring Report - Exam Paper Errors
Secretary to pass the Board's comments to the Head of Registry Services. Action complete

Minute 2237 AOB - Change to PGR Submission deadline.
Action: Secretary to pass the Board's comments to the Doctoral College. (Secretary's note: Associate PVC Research (Doctoral) confirmed that the earlier award confirmation deadline had been postponed for 2023 summer graduations. Students were informed of the revised position on 22 March). Action complete

2250 Chairs Business & Actions

The Dean reported on the following items,

I. Industrial Action Short of a Strike. The Dean noted the vote by UCU (Universities & Colleges Union) members to take industrial action. Its possibly the first such action where the NUS and the

BathStudents' Union were not openly in support and the Dean stressed the importance of protecting and maintaining the very good relationship that exists at the University between academic, professional services staff and the student body .

II. MSc in AI. The Dean thanked all colleagues involved in the development of the proposed new MSc in AI, which had received strategic approval at University Executive Board (UEB) on 16 May.

2251 New Courses - Strategic Approval ED2022-23/097

Purpose - For Approval

Professor Wilson presented the proposal for Stage 1 Initial (Strategic) Approval of a new full time PGT programme in the Dept. of Electronic & Electrical Engineering; MSc in Artificial Intelligence for Engineering & Design (provisional title). He provided a brief overview of the new MSc proposals which have been developed to meet emerging market needs for postgraduate courses at the interface between artificial intelligence and engineering. More in-depth market analysis is required to inform and direct the second stage, detailed development of the proposal as initial information is unclear as to whether one course (MSc Artificial Intelligence for Engineering & Design) accepting students from any engineering background or five courses (one per discipline area of the Faculty, therefore MSc Artificial Intelligence for Architecture, MSc Artificial Intelligence for Engineering (Civil), MSc Artificial Intelligence for Engineering (Chemical), MSc Artificial Intelligence for Engineering (Electric & Electronic) and MSc Artificial Intelligence for Engineering (Mechanical) will perform better with regards to recruitment. The course development team will also engage with the professional accrediting body (the IET) during the next stage.

Members of the Board queried whether the Departments of Compute Science or Mathematics already offered or were developing comparable PGT courses. Dr Metcalfe explained that the Dept. of Computer Science PGT courses come from a fundamentally different academic space - i.e. they focus on the development of AI rather than its application. Both departments are in regular dialogue surrounding this and future possible course developments as well as the computing and lab resources needed to support AI teaching. Professor Plummer commented that there could also be potential synergies with the MRes CDT in AI currently offered by the Dept of Computer Science. Dr Metcalfe commented that the future computing resource needs which the University faces in order to keep step with AI and machine learning were likely to be significant e.g. for High Performance Computing, Cloud provision. The Dean noted that resources would flow as a result of successful student recruitment. but that discussions with the Director of DDaT regarding computational resources should also be a priority The Board noted that the course costing tool was not entirely suitable for financial modelling purposes. Dr Codinhoto was working closely with the Faculty Finance Manager to develop a full financial model for the course.

Members of the Board queried whether there were plans to deliver any of the course to final year UG students. The Board noted that all PGT and UG teaching had been decoupled. and there would therefore not be co-delivery to UG & PGT students of any of the proposed course content.

The Chair thanked the course development team for their efforts in bringing the proposal forward and noted that the business case in support of the proposal had been approved by University Executive Board (UEB) at its meeting of 16 May.

The Board fully supported the proposal and recommended it to Academic Programmes Committee (APC) for strategic approval

2252 Undergraduate Assessment Regulations 2023-24 ED2022-23/098

The Board received and considered the draft report to Senate (19 April 23) providing an update on the direction of travel of Curriculum Transformation: Undergraduate Assessment Regulations (UGAR). UGAR represents a major simplification of the principles and assessment regulations contained with NFAAR_UG with the intention that it be adopted for use by all undergraduate cohorts in all undergraduate courses from 2023/24 from which point NFAAR_UG and the IMCA regulations will be withdrawn. Members of the Board made the following comments,
i) In order to comply with professional accreditation requirements the Faculty's courses will have most, if not all, units designated as Must Pass Units (MPU). Any exemptions from UGAR which may be required to permit trailing of failed MPUs will need to be submitted to EQSC. Dr Gheduzzi commented that this was already underway.
ii) Level 7 units will have a 50% pass mark (already adopted for CT PGT courses) from 2025/26 for the MArch course and 2026/27 for all other level 7 UG units e.g. final year MEng. Departments will need to plan carefully for marking to a 50% pass mark
iii) Feedback had indicated concern that we may see grade inflation as a result of the degree classification boundaries. Professor Heath noted that this was very much on the UGAR working groups radar.
Student members of the Board had no specific comments on the proposals other than general support for the process of simplification of assessment regulations.

2253 Reports from Ex Officio Members ED2022-23/099

The Board noted the update reports from ex officio members as detailed in Paper FE2022/23-099

2254 Report from Student Representatives and / or Students Union Officer

No matters were raised by student representatives

2255 Library Matters

Mr Stacey provided a brief update on library matters;
i) The Library had the usual arrangements in place to support students during semester two assessments ,
ii) There will be summer building work in the Library (details on the Library's blog / website)
iii) The team are preparing their support for the summer University Open Days
iv) Recruitment is currently underway to appoint a Head of Library Services. Recent appointments include Sarah Ormes as Research Analytics Librarian

2256 Sub-Committee Minutes ED2022-23/100-106

The Board received the minutes of the following Committee meetings:
Faculty Executive Committee 6 March and 24 April 2023
Faculty Learning Teaching & Quality Committee 8 March and 26 April 2023
Faculty Research & Knowledge Exchange Committee 22 February, 29 March and 26 April 2023

2257 Committee Minutes (SSLC, DBoS, FDSC) ED2022-23/107-113

The Board received the minutes of the following Committee meetings:
Faculty Doctoral Studies Committee 8 March and 5 April 2023
Staff Student Liaison Committees
(i) UG Architecture SSLC meetings 22 February and 29 March 2023
(ii) UG Civil SSLC meetings 22 February and 29 March 2023
(iii) Dept of Chemical Engineering UG meetings 1 December 2022 and 21 February 2023
(iv) Dept of Mechanical Engineering UG meetings 6 December 2022, 21 February and 14 March 2023
(v) PGT SSLC meeting 28 February 2023

2258 Any Other Business

The Chair was asked to comment on the University Finances given rumours of a bleak financial outlook . The Chair confirmed that the University was already making plans for non detrimental savings and other cost saving initiatives were in hand to ensure that the University finances were stable.

2259 Date of Next Meeting

The Board noted that date of the next meeting 5 July 2023 (reserved business only)