



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Microsoft Teams
Date Wednesday 30 September 2020 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 Dr A Gorbach Professor M Hejmadi Miss F Jackson Dr R James Professor M Jones Professor T Mays Professor N McHugh Professor P Milewski Dr A Preston Dr P Rogers Dr T Shardlow Professor J Sivaloganathan Professor D Tosh Professor S Ward Dr J White Professor C Wilson Mr J Withington 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 Department of Physics Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching) Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community) Head of Department of Physics Department of Chemistry Faculty of Engineering and Design Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Biology and Biochemistry Associate Dean (International) Head of Natural Sciences Associate Dean (Research) UG student representative Department of Computer Science
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett Ms A L Harper Mrs S Paine Mrs T Buckley Ms P Gabriel	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary) Faculty of Science (Observer) Programmes Manager (Operations) (Observer) Programmes Officer (Observer) Programmes Officer (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset Dr F Qin Dr G Stothart	Learning Partnerships Office School of Management Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Action

7038 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 28 July 2020 (Paper 1), and there were no matters arising.

7039 BOARD OF STUDIES MEMBERSHIP 2020/21

The Board reviewed its membership for 2020/21 (Paper 2), and welcomed new

members:

- Professor Jeyabal Sivaloganathan, Department of Mathematical Sciences.
- New Undergraduate representatives: Mr Jacob Withington, BSc (Hons) Physics with Placement (Year 4), who will attend in Semester 1, and Mr Kieran Maharaj, MComp (Hons) Computer Science and Mathematics (Year 3), who will attend in Semester 2.
- New Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community): Miss Freya Jackson.

7040 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair reported the following matters:

- Student registration numbers (as of close of play 29 Sept): 1,000 undergraduate across the Faculty against a target of 1055. This proportion is in line with the rest of the University but is disappointing given the large increases in application and conversion numbers prior to lockdown. 278 PGT in excess of the target of 264, over 80% of which in Computer Science. This is the first year in the Faculty that a Department has been dominated by PGT on campus (i.e. excluding online and Degree Apprenticeship programmes): 225 PGT compared to 150 undergraduate (more of a 50/50 split last year). The Chair congratulated the Department on its MSc Data Science programme being listed by Forbes magazine as one of the top ten AI and Data Science courses globally, alongside MIT, Stanford, Carnegie Mellon and Imperial College London.
- The Chair thanked the Associate Dean L&T and asked HoDs to pass on his thanks to staff in Departments for their work in developing resilient curriculum and the Bath blend in order to offer a mixture of face-to-face and online teaching to students from the start of the 2020/21 session.
- A Faculty Employer Advisory Board has been established to advise the Faculty on its educational offering, particularly employability, widening participation and the relevance of our courses to the overseas market. The Chair, Neil Kelly, has addressed Faculty Executive and is a global recruitment lead with Thermo Fisher. The Board membership includes alumni and contacts recommended by the Chair. The first Board meeting is scheduled for early November. The Dean will keep BoS and Faculty Executive abreast of developments.
- The Chair sought advice from the Board as to whether it would be appropriate to ask staff delivering In-Person Time (IPT) to reinforce the 'Be safe. Be kind. Belong...Together' campaign, designed to ensure best practice is followed on dealing with Covid19 safely on campus, e.g. by displaying a slide reinforcing safety guidance at the start of IPT sessions. Dr Preston commented that putting students in a situation where they need to wear facemasks for 4 hours, albeit with social distancing informed by airflow analysis, is not best practice in terms of safety. It was noted we are following Government advice. In response to a query about testing, the Chair reported that the University is working with BANES and PHE to establish plans to deal with any outbreak within the University community. Ms Harper reported that it is currently possible to be tested in Bath, Frome and Bristol and PHE have committed to providing testing via a mobile unit on campus should cases increase rapidly; test results are also being received within shorter timeframes (24-48 hours). Personnel in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry had offered to conduct testing and this had been passed on to the appropriate people in the University. The University is in discussion with the external testing contactors used by Exeter regarding helping to increase capacity if needed. The UG student representative emphasised the need for consistent messaging to students on Covid19 safety.

Secretary's note: It was announced on 2 October that a new testing centre had been established on the ground floor of Carpenter House, and is open to University members and the general public via the NHS booking system.

- Priorities for the coming year:
 - i) Embedding resilient curriculum:
 - a. Opportunities to work with industry and take forward lifelong learning for upskilling - modularisation.
 - b. Transnational education.
 - ii) REF, due end of March 2021.
 - iii) Doubling grant income over the next strategic plan timescale. The Chair and Associate Dean Research are working with contacts in the Digital area with the aim of mimicking the success of the Call to Arms initiative led by Professor Larijani, Professor Kyprianou and Professor Davidson over the summer which resulted in the submission of a series of grants.
 - iv) Internationalisation: teaching and research.
 - v) Assessment and feedback.

7041 REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

The Board reviewed, in accordance with the Athena SWAN University Self-Assessment Team (USAT) Action Delivery Plan, the membership of Departments':

- Executive Committee;
- Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee (DLTQC);
- Research Committee.

Department of Biology and Biochemistry (Paper 3):

The Chair noted that the Research Committee was more male-dominated than the other Committees but acknowledged that this was not unique to the Department.

Department of Chemistry (Paper 4):

Professor A Burrows reported that when Dr Petra Cameron leaves the Executive Committee at the start of November Dr Gan Shermer would attend some meetings as the incoming Director of Teaching, thereby ensuring an appropriate gender balance.

Department of Computer Science (Paper 5):

Professor M Fraser highlighted that the Deputy HoD had been omitted erroneously from the Executive Committee membership.

Secretary's note: This was corrected immediately following the meeting.

The Chair enquired as to whether there might be benefit in having an Early Career Researcher on the Research Committee. Professor Fraser explained that this had been considered by the Research Committee but that it had agreed to let other substantial changes to its membership bed-in first.

Department of Mathematical Sciences (Paper 6):

Professor P Milewski explained that the gender imbalance of the Executive Committee would either be addressed when the two Heads of Group step-down or by rotating Dr Matthew Roberts (Chair DEDC) with Dr Susie Douglas (DEDC Deputy Chair), to attend every other meeting.

Natural Sciences (Paper 7):

Dr J White reported that plans were underway to identify a different representative from the Department of Biology and Biochemistry from its current member on the Executive Committee to sit on DLTQC.

Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (Paper 8):

Professor N McHugh commented that the gender balance of the Executive Committee had improved with the replacement of Nick Haddington with Lyn Hanning and the inclusion of Dr Charareh Pourzand as EDI representative. Changes had also been made to the membership of the Research Committee to ensure a gender balance.

Department of Physics (Paper 9):

The Chair enquired as to whether there might be benefit in having Early Career Researchers on the Research Committee. Dr R James explained that the membership included a staff member just coming out of a Fellowship and another early on in a

Fellowship.

7042 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
	Dr A Gorbach	Department of Physics
	Professor M Hejmadi	Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching)
	Miss F Jackson	Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community)
	Dr R James	Head of Department of Physics
	Professor M Jones	Department of Chemistry
	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 P Rogers	Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
	Dr T Shardlow	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Professor J Sivaloganathan	Department of Mathematical Sciences
	Professor D Tosh	Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Professor S Ward	Associate Dean (International)	
Dr J White	Head of Natural Sciences	
Professor C Wilson	Associate Dean (Research)	
Mr J Withington	UG student representative	
Dr M Wright	Department of Computer Science	
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary)
	Ms A L Harper	Faculty of Science (Observer)
	Mrs S Paine	Programmes Manager (Operations) (Observer)
	Mrs T Buckley	Programmes Officer (Observer)
	Ms P Gabriel	Programmes Officer (Observer)
Apologies	Dr F Bisset	Learning Partnerships Office
	Dr F Qin	School of Management
	Dr G Stothart	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Action

7043 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 28 July 2020 (Paper 1), and there were no matters arising.

7044 REPORT ON RESEARCH GRANTS

The Board received details of awards accepted by Research and Innovation Services from 18 July until 22 September 2020 (Paper 10).

The Chair congratulated in particular:

- Professor Mathew Penrose, Department of Mathematical Sciences, for his award of £460,885 from the EPSRC for research into Coverage and Connectivity in Stochastic Geometry.
- Dr Özgür Şimşek, supported by Dr Neill Campbell and Dr Tom Fincham Haines, Department of Computer Science, for her award of £187,991.04 from the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) for research into Automated Data Curation, since this was the first funding received in the Faculty from WECA. The Chair commented that it would be beneficial to share their experiences of securing the WECA funding more widely.

7045 FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2020 (Paper 11).

7046 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)

The Board noted the minutes of the meetings held on 24 June (Paper 12A) and 22 July (Paper 12B) 2020.

7047 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Professor M Hejmadi reported that a proposal on examination parameters for Semester 1, containing 4 options, had been considered by ULTQC (on the morning of 30 Sept). Dr J White enquired as to whether it would be possible to make changes to assessments for Semester 1 (e.g. change an examination to coursework) in light of the option chosen by ULTQC. Professor Hejmadi confirmed that the examination parameters were being set this week, and that changes to assessments in light of these parameters could be made next week. The UG student representative emphasised the need for students to be provided with sufficient notice of any changes to be made to Semester 1 examinations.