



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Microsoft Teams
Date Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 14:15

Present	Professor N Brook Dr F Bisset Dr R Bradford Dr Z Burke Professor A Burrows Professor M Hejmadi Dr R James Dr G Mathlin Professor N McHugh Professor P Milewski Dr F Nemetz Dr F Qin Dr P Rogers Dr G Shermer Dr G Stothart Dr C Todd Dr M Wright	Dean of Science (Chair) Learning Partnerships Office Department of Computer Science Department of Biology and Biochemistry Head of Department of Chemistry Associate Dean (Education) Head of Department of Physics Department of Physics Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Computer Science School of Management Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Department of Chemistry Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Computer Science
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett Ms A L Harper	Faculty Assistant Registrar (Secretary) Faculty of Science (Observer)
Apologies	Miss M Crossman Mr J Dean Dr N Fotaki Dr A Gorbach Professor M Jones Dr M Lennox Mr J Ogunyemi Professor E O'Neill Professor T Rogers Dr T Shardlow Professor J Sivaloganathan Professor D Tosh Professor S Ward	Students' Union Sabbatical Officer (Community) Postgraduate Taught student representative Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Department of Physics Deputy Dean of Science Faculty of Engineering and Design Undergraduate student representative Head of Department of Computer Science Associate Dean (Research) Department of Mathematical Sciences Department of Mathematical Sciences Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry Associate Dean (International)

Action

7315 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 6 July 2022 (Paper 255).

7316 MATTERS ARISING

M7296 MATTERS ARISING: UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

The Board noted that the Research Centre for Therapeutic Innovation (CTI) had updated their metrics which will be approved under BoS Chair's action (for noting at the next meeting).

Sec

M7299 UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

The Board noted that the Research Centre for Nonlinear Mechanics (CNM) will update their metrics shortly. The revised metrics will be approved under BoS Chair's action (for noting at the next meeting).

**FRKEC/
CNM**

7317 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

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

- Deputising BoS Chair in relation to chairing BoS meetings, appeals and assessment offences (Paper 255A). The Board approved this late paper.
- Thanks to Dr Richard James, Professor Neil McHugh, Professor Paul Milewski and Professor David Tosh for their contribution to the Board for the past 3 years. This will be their last meeting as they are stepping down as HoDs (although it was noted that Dr Richard James may remain as HoD for a while longer).
- Thanks to Dr Andriy Gorbach and Dr Russell Bradford for their contribution to the Board for the past 6 years. This will be their last meeting. They will be replaced by Dr Charlotte Dodson, Department of Life Sciences, with one position remaining to be filled. The Chair also thanked Dr Gary Mathlin for his contribution to the Board since February. He will be replaced by Dr Susan Crennell as new Nat Sci DoT.

7318 SEMESTER 2 SCALING REPORT AND ERRORS IN EXAMINATION PAPERS

The Board approved scaling of unit marks (Paper 256A) and errors in examination papers (Paper 256B) in Semester 2 2021/22.

The Board noted that there had been 22 instances of scaling (compared to 29 in Semester 2 last year); 0 in Biology & Biochemistry (10 last year), 0 in Chemistry (1 last year), 7 in Computer Science (3 last year), 9 in Maths (11 last year), 0 in Pharmacy & Pharmacology (2 last year) and 6 in Physics (2 last year), including 8 units (1 in Comp Sci, 6 in Maths and 1 in Physics) where the mean marks were not atypical, and 44 instances (excluding IFY units) of means that were atypical but not scaled (compared to 72 last year). The Chair thanked the Board for improvements made in setting assessments.

Professor Milewski commented that for Maths, Year 1 Semester 2 unit marks, in which students sat in-person exams, were notably lower than Year 1 Semester 1 unit marks, in which students sat online exams. This highlights that First Year students are not particularly well prepared to undertake in-person exams. The Chair stated that this would be reviewed closely at the end of Semester 1 next year. Dr Nemetz added that a similar experience had been reported by External Examiners from other institutions. Professor Hejmadi stated that she was undertaking an analysis of data on this from across the Faculty to report back to Education Board. Professor Hejmadi commented that there appeared to be a reduction overall in the averages in in-person and shorter duration online exams, compared to 24-hour online exams. Professor Burrows stated that while Chemistry did not scale any units in Semester 2, there were some core units in Years 1 and 2 that were in the atypical range. The Department had agreed it would be inappropriate to scale these units because the marks had accurately reflected the standards achieved. However, the students had not performed as well as expected. Professor Burrows stated that he believed this was due to some students lacking the required study skills, i.e. understanding the process of revising, having not had to revise for A level. He added that this is an issue the sector is likely to face for the next few years until students become more used to revising again for A level. Dr Mathlin enquired as to whether the lower averages for the timed online exams allowed for 0s from late submissions. Professor Hejmadi highlighted that late submissions constituted less than 1% of the total number of submissions so are likely to have had a limited impact.

The Board also considered the Semester 2 2021/22 errors in examination papers report. The Chair highlighted a downward trend and thanked the Board for efforts made to reduce exam errors. Professor Hejmadi flagged a notable improvement in Maths. Professor Milewski attributed this largely to the cross-Department efforts of the Head of Group, Professor

Jonathan Dawes. Dr Shermer requested that the report be amended, for all 3 Chemistry units, to state that students were contacted after the end of the exam to say that an error had been noted and this would be taken into consideration during marking. Students were told that the papers would be marked such that students would not be disadvantaged due to the error.

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

7319 FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

To note the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2022 (Paper 257).

7320 FACULTY RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE COMMITTEE

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 (Paper 258).

7321 UNIVERSITY BOARD OF STUDIES (DOCTORAL) (BoSD)

The Board noted the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2022 (Paper 259).

7322 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.