

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Board of the Faculty of Science

There will be a meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science on 14 February 2007 at 2pm in room **PS128, Physical Sciences**.

CE Charlton
University Secretary

Note: Questions on agenda items or apologies for this meeting should be directed to the Secretary of the Committee, Jamie Darwen (ext. 72821 or jamie.darwen@warwick.ac.uk) or the Assistant Secretary, Helen Johnson (ext. 74766 or h.m.johnson@warwick.ac.uk).

AGENDA

1. Minutes

TO CONSIDER:

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 8 November 2006 (copy attached).

2. Matters arising on the Minutes

3. Computer-Aided Assessment in Science departments

TO CONSIDER:

A paper on Computer-Aided Assessment (CAA) in Science departments (paper BFS.3/06-07, copy attached).

(Note: further information about the e-learning project on computer-aided assessment in Science can be found at <http://go.warwick.ac.uk/caa4s>)

4. Report from the Faculty of Science IT Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Science IT Committee held on 24 January 2007 (copy attached).

5. Report from the Sub-Faculty

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Faculty of Science held on 31 January 2007 (copy attached).

6. Report from the Graduate Studies Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 31 January 2007 (copy attached).

7. Report from the Faculty of Science Research Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the recent meeting of the Faculty of Science Research Committee held on 17 January 2007 (copy attached).

8. Chair's Business

(a) Advantage West Midlands

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair on the Science Cities initiative, being funded by Advantage West Midlands.

(b) Nominations for Early-Career Researchers

TO CONSIDER:

An invitation for applications from early-stage and early-career researchers to present posters at the House of Commons (paper BFS.2/06-07, copy attached), noting that the deadline is Friday 23 February.

(c) International Strategy

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair on links with Africa and North America.

(d) Midlands Physics Alliance

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair on the award of funding from HEFCE for a Midlands Physics Alliance, creating a partnership of excellence in physics research and education at the universities of Birmingham, Nottingham and Warwick.

(e) New Year's Honours

TO REPORT:

That Professor Howard Dalton (Biological Sciences) was awarded a knighthood in the New Year's Honours.

9. Annual Course Review

TO CONSIDER:

(a) The composite report on the postgraduate course review reports for 2005-06 from across the Faculty of Science (paper SGS.48/06-07, copy attached).

(b) The composite report on the undergraduate course review reports for 2005-06 from across the Faculty of Science (paper SFS.38/06-07, copy attached).

10. Policy on Use of Postgraduate Students for Teaching

TO REPORT:

- (a) That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee at its meeting on 22 November 2006 (minute AQSC 32/06-07 refers) considered a proposal from the Board of Graduate Studies for a policy on the use of postgraduate students for teaching, paper BGS 6/06-07, and resolved that the proposed policy be referred to the Faculty Boards for comment, before further consideration at the second meeting of that Committee in the Spring Term 2007.
- (b) That the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Science supported the proposed policy (minute SGS 33/06-07 refers).

TO CONSIDER:

- (c) A draft policy on the use of postgraduate students for teaching as set out in paper BGS6/06-07 (revised), copy attached

11. Degree Classification Conventions

TO REPORT:

- (a) That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee at its meeting on 1 February 2007 (draft minute AQSC 54/06-07 refers) considered a position paper prepared by the Secretary setting out progress to date on consideration given to harmonising degree classification conventions across the Faculties of Arts, Science, and Social Studies and outlining the next steps (paper AQSC 35/06-07) and resolved:
 - (i) That the Assessment Conventions Working Group be reconvened to finalise proposals for introducing a new University-wide marking scale with a shared understanding of the meaning of terms, and GPA-based degree classification conventions along the following lines:
 - (A) The new marking scale to have 16-20 points, presented not in numerical or percentage terms, but using mark descriptors (e.g. exceptional First, high First, mid First, low First, high 2.1, mid 2.1, low 2.1 etc.);
 - (B) A recognition that to avoid clustering overall degree results in the 2.1 bracket unfairly module marks on the 16-20-point scale must be converted to percentages before being averaged to decide the final classification;
 - (C) Credit overloads to be treated consistently across all Faculties, with proposals to recognise credit overloads to be put forward by departments through course regulations or another agreed mechanism;
 - (D) Clarity of terminology around “score”, “mark”, “result” and similar terms, in consultation with colleagues in the Academic Office working on the Mark Entry Project.
 - (ii) That the Assessment Conventions Working Group draw on the expertise and experience of members of the Committee, including Professor Harrison and Dr Flint;

- (iii) That the Assessment Conventions Working Group prepare a concise summary of their proposals as the first stage in engaging colleagues across the University in discussions.

TO CONSIDER:

- (b) The paper on Degree Classification Conventions presented to AQSC (AQSC.35/06-07. copy attached).

12. Items to be brought to the Senate

TO CONSIDER:

Whether there are any specific issues which the Board of the Faculty wishes to refer to the Senate for consideration.

13. Future Meetings and Deadline for Papers:

TO REPORT:

- (a) That the final meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science in the academic year 2006/07 would be held on Wednesday 30 May 2007 (Council Chamber).
- (b) That the deadline for the receipt of papers is 12 noon six working days preceding each meeting of the Board of the Faculty.

TO CONSIDER:

- (c) A proposal that the date of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science in the summer terms be moved to the following week.

14. Any Other Business

15. Reserved Items

See separate agenda (copy attached) for academic members of the Board of the Faculty only.

JAD/HJ/BFSAgenda14Feb07