

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 8 February 2006 at 2pm in the Council Chamber, University House.

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, Kerry France (ext. 24773 or k.france@warwick.ac.uk).

AGENDA

1. Minutes

TO CONSIDER:

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 2 November 2005 (copy attached).

2. Matters arising on the Minutes

Faculty of Science: Seymour Formula: Formula Marking Scheme (BFS minute 3(a)(v)/05-06 refers)

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair clarifying the AQSC's understanding of the Faculty of Science's position with regard to formula marking schemes.

3. Chair's Business

TO REPORT:

(a) Changes to the Secretariat

That Jamie Darwen would replace Jonathan Wylie as Secretary to the Board of the Faculty of Science and its subordinate committees.

TO RECEIVE:

(b) Academic Staff Grading Structure

An oral report from the Chair on proposals for the grading structure for academic staff.

(c) International Strategy

An oral report from the Chair requesting information on departmental international strategies, and discussing the possibility of the formation of a Faculty International Strategy Committee.

(d) Research Developments

An oral report from the Chair on the University's proposals for large scale research activities.

(e) RCUK Fellowships

An oral report from the Chair on the RCUK Academic Fellowship scheme.

(f) Vice-Chancellor's Education Innovation Fund

An oral report from the Chair on the Vice Chancellor's Education Innovation Fund.

(g) Faculty Advisory Board

An oral report from the Chair on forthcoming meetings of the Faculty Advisory Board.

4. Report from the Sub-Faculty

TO RECEIVE:

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Faculty of Science held on 24 January 2006, to follow.

TO CONSIDER:

- (b) A revised proposal from the Chair of the Sub-Faculty of Science recommending adoption of a new Capped Seymour Formula (BFS.4/05-06, copy attached).
- (c) A proposal to repeal the regulations which state that significant changes to modules or course regulations be submitted no later than the middle of term two (BFS.5/05-06, copy attached).

5. 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 24 January 2006, to follow.

6. Report from the Faculty of Science Research Committee

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair of the Faculty of Science Research Committee.

7. Report from the Faculty of Science IT Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Science IT Committee held on 18 January 2006, copy attached.

8. Centre for High Field Magnetic Resonance

TO CONSIDER:

A revised proposal from the Directors of the Centre for NMR and the Institute for Mass Spectrometry about their discontinuation and replacement by a new High Field Magnetic Resonance Centre (paper BFS.3/05-06 (revised), copy attached).

9. Integrated Masters Courses: Additional Award of a Masters qualification

TO REPORT:

That the Board of Graduate Studies at its meeting on 12 January 2006 considered a briefing note from the Europe Unit on the implications of the Bologna agreement for undergraduate Masters Degrees (paper BGS.20/05-06, copy attached), and the principle of awarding both a Masters qualification and a Bachelors qualification for integrated programmes noting that students would be required to complete 120 credits at M level; and resolved:

- (a) That, as the proposed award of an Master's degree on the basis of completing only 120 credits at M level was not consistent with Masters Degrees presently offered by the University, the Board did not wish to endorse this proposal on the basis of the information available, noting that the Board would appreciate input from the departments concerned before considering the matter further.
- (b) That there were no objections to the award of a Postgraduate Diploma for 120 credits at M level or the award of a Masters degree if students were to complete an additional 60-credit dissertation at M level.

TO REPORT:

That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee, at its meeting of 26 January 2006, considered:

- (c) A briefing paper from the secretariat summarising issues relating to double awards on integrated Masters programmes (paper AQSC.71/05-06, copy attached);
- (d) Europe Unit Briefing Note E/05/12: 'The Bologna Process and UK's integrated Masters programmes' (paper BGS.20/05-06, copy attached);
- (e) The desirability of allowing, where requested by Departments, the award of a Bachelors qualification in addition to a Masters qualification for students completing an integrated Masters course;
- (f) A proposal from Dr S Jacka, Department of Statistics, to award a BSc in addition to the award of an MMORSE (paper AQSC 73/05-06, copy attached);

and resolved (unconfirmed minute AQSC 53/05-06 refers):

- (g) That it be noted that intentions in the Europe Unit Briefing Note went against the principles that initially informed the development of integrated Masters programmes;
- (h) That the Committee would support any response from the Russell Group Pro Vice-Chancellors expressing unease with aspects of this proposal;
- (i) That detailed consideration of the issue should be referred back to the Board of the Faculty of Science, with a view from the Faculty being brought back to the Committee later in the year.

TO CONSIDER:

Issues regarding integrated Masters programmes, in the light of comments from the Board of Graduate Studies and the Academic Quality and Standards Committee.

10. Upgrade from MPhil to PhD

TO REPORT:

That all other Faculties admit students to an MPhil/PhD with an upgrade process during the first 12-18 months for full-timers, whereas the Science Faculty admits students directly to a PhD.

TO CONSIDER:

In the context of the QAA Special Review of Research Degrees, whether this pattern should be continued.

11. Annual Course Review

TO CONSIDER:

A composite report on the undergraduate course review reports from across the Faculty of Science (paper SFS.67/05-06, copy attached).

12. Co-option of Members of the Board

TO CONSIDER:

A proposal from the Chair of the Physics Department recommending automatic co-option of a further representative from the home department of the Chair of the Faculty (BFS.6/05-06, copy attached).

13. Items for discussion at future meetings of the Board

TO CONSIDER:

Any items to be brought forward for discussion at future meetings of the Board.

14. 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.

15. Future Meetings and Deadline for Papers

TO REPORT:

- (a) That the final meeting of the Board of the Faculty in the academic year 2005/06 would be held on Wednesday 24 May 2005, 2.00pm
- (b) That the deadline for the receipt of papers is 12 noon six working days preceding each meeting of the Board of the Faculty.

16. Any Other Business

17. Reserved Items

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

JAD/KF/BFSAgenda8Feb06