

# UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE

### Board of the Faculty of Science

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 24 May 2006.

Present: Professor ME Smith (in the Chair), Professor J Beynon, Professor MJ Cooper, Professor PJ Derrick, Dr G Martin, Professor MS Paterson, Dr AM Price, Dr C Sparrow, Professor J Hutton, Dr K Flint, Professor L Roberts, Dr J Robinson, Professor D Singer, Dr R Tribe, Professor M Wills.

Apologies: Mr T Arnold, Professor RC Ball, Professor SK Bhattacharya, Dr RA Beare, Professor S Bright, Professor P Carpenter, Professor C Dowson, Professor R Freedman, Professor JW Gardner, Professor RJ Green, Professor D Haddleton, Dr S Joseph, Professor K Lamberts, Dr D Morley, Professor D Peled, Professor MF Steel, Miss L Slator, Dr N G Stocks, Professor PR Taylor, Professor Sebastian van Strien, Professor M Waterson, Professor R Wilson

In Attendance: Ms H Ireland, Dr K Leppard

### MINUTES

#### 37/05-06 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 8 February 2006 be approved.

#### 38/05-06 Matters arising on the minutes

There were none.

#### 39/05-06 Chair's Business

##### (a) RCUK Fellowships

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the RCUK Academic Fellowship scheme, noting that one of the Faculty's three bids had met with approval.

##### (b) Advantage West Midlands

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the Science Cities initiative, being funded by Advantage West Midlands, noting that, in addition to the two bids being considered here, the University would be putting forward two bids in the areas of Advanced Materials and Translational Medicine during June.

CONSIDERED:

Two bids being submitted by the Universities of Warwick and Birmingham for funding through the Science Cities initiative (BFS.7-8/05-06).

(c) Science and Innovation

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on Science and Innovation outline bids, noting that three bids would be submitted from the University to EPSRC by 31st May, in mathematics, renewable energy and physical organic chemistry.

(d) Centre for Scientific Computing

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on funding for the Centre for Scientific Computing (BFS minute 20(h)/05-06 refers), noting that:

- (i) a solution had been agreed by relevant departments, and that a bid had gone in for the new equipment which should arrive by September; and
- (ii) this solution is only short-term (2-3 years), and it is important that the whole of the Faculty works with the Centre for Scientific Computing to ensure funding for its long term sustainability.

(e) Growth in Faculty Research Funding

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the growth in Faculty research funding, noting that (in terms of active EPSRC grant income) since 1998 Warwick had always been behind Birmingham in research funding, but was now £7-8 million ahead.

40/05-06 Report from the Sub-Faculty

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Faculty of Science held on 3 May 2006.

CONSIDERED:

A recommendation that the Sub-Faculty of Science changes the dates of its meetings as follows, recognising that its business is heavily loaded in Term 2 (SFS minute 32(b)/05-06 refers):

- Term 1: no meeting (unless required)
- Term 2: two meetings
- Term 3: one meeting

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the proposal to change the dates of meetings be approved as above, noting that this will allow more uniform and better processing of business.
- (b) That Dr Robinson be thanked for his services as Chair of the Sub-Faculty of Science over the last three years.

41/05-06 Report from the Graduate Studies Committee

RECEIVED:

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 24 January 2006.
- (b) The minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 10 May 2006.

RESOLVED:

That Professor Wills be thanked for his services as Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee over the last three years.

42/05-06 Report from the Faculty of Science Research Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Science Research Committee held on 10 May 2006.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That that fact that the Research Committee was taking a lead on joining up thinking on the training component of graduate research programmes should be welcomed.
- (b) That the creation of web pages to profile Faculty research should be welcomed.

43/05-06 Report from the Faculty of Science IT Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Science IT Committee held on 8 May 2006.

RESOLVED:

That the Faculty should continue to pursue vigorous opposition to the 10Mb limit on email attachments, and other points raised by the IT Committee about the proposed new email system.

44/05-06 Integrated Masters Courses

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Faculty of Science working group, chaired by Professor Hutton, on issues regarding Integrated Masters Courses (BFS.9/05-06).

REPORTED:

That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee, at its meeting on 11 May 2006, considered recommendations from the Faculty of Science working group and resolved (AQSC draft minute 86/05-06 refers):

- (a) That the Committee supports in principle the proposal to permit departments in the Faculty of Science to rebrand existing integrated undergraduate Masters degrees as

BSc MPhys (or BSc MChem etc. as appropriate to the subject) as set out in paper AQSC 101/05-06 subject to a number of clarifications and amendments:

- (b) That the Chair ascertain the extent to which other Russell Group institutions are supporting Integrated Masters Degrees;
- (c) That a permissive regulation is preferred to one requiring departments to introduce the change provided that different approaches are justified and not likely to cause confusion;
- (d) That it is unnecessary to stipulate that 90 M-level credits must be taken in the fourth year, but that 120 credits at level M must be taken across the third and fourth years, with a preponderance of the credits taken in the fourth year at level M;
- (e) That in due course consideration be given by departments in the Faculty of Science to the possibility of offering students on integrated Masters courses the opportunity of completing a summer research project, or of incorporating modules in Scientific Writing being developed by CELTE and MOAC.

RESOLVED:

- (f) That the resolutions of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee be supported.

45/05-06 International Strategy

CONSIDERED:

A presentation made by Professor Robert Lindley (Pro-Vice-Chancellor) on Developing Warwick's International Strategy (BFS.10/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the Chair would contact head of departments regarding departmental international strategies.

46/05-06 Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014: next steps

CONSIDERED:

A discussion paper from Government on next steps in taking forward the Government's Science and Innovation Investment Framework 2004-2014 (BFS.11/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That any comments on this paper should be forwarded to the Chair.

47/05-06 Faculty Advisory Board

CONSIDERED:

The Annual Report of the Faculty of Science Advisory Board (BFS.12/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Faculty should try and take advantage of the HEIF scheme for exchange visits.
- (b) That the Board should send its congratulations to Professor Phil Woodruff (Physics) on his election as a Fellow of the Royal Society.

48/05-06 Periodic Review of the Department of Chemistry

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A report from the Periodic Review of undergraduate courses in the Department of Chemistry held on 17 June 2005, and a response from the department (BFS.13(a-b)/05-06).
- (b) A report from the Periodic Review of postgraduate courses in the Department of Chemistry held on 12 September 2005, and a response from the department (BFS.14(a-b)/05-06).

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the report from the Periodic Review of undergraduate courses in the Department of Chemistry held on 17 June 2005 (BFS.13(a)/05-06) be approved, subject to an amendment to section 7(f), Student Recruitment and Admissions, and other minor amendments being agreed between the Chair of the Review Group and the Department.
- (d) That the report from the Periodic Review of postgraduate courses in the Department of Chemistry held on 12 September 2005 (BFS.14(a)/05-06) be approved.

49/05-06 Faculty Elections

CONSIDERED:

The proposed constitutions and nominations for memberships of the following committees for the academic year 2006/07:

- (a) Board of the Faculty of Science (BFS.15/05-06).
- (b) Sub-Faculty of Science (BFS.16/05-06).
- (c) Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Science (BFS.17/05-06).
- (d) Faculty of Science Information Technology Committee (BFS.18/05-06).
- (e) First Year Board of Examiners (BFS.19/05-06).
- (f) Examination Appeals Committee (BFS.20/05-06).
- (g) Other Board Elections (BFS.21/05-06).

RESOLVED:

That the proposed constitutions and nominations for memberships of the above committees be approved as set out in papers BFS.15-21/05-06, noting that the positions to be confirmed will be approved by Chair's action.

50/05-06 Items for discussion at future meetings of the Board

RESOLVED:

That the membership of the Board be encouraged to bring forward to the secretariat suggestions of any items for discussion at future meetings of the Board.

51/05-06 Items to be brought to the Senate

RESOLVED:

That there were no specific issues which the Board of the Faculty wished to refer to the Senate for consideration.

52/05-06 Any Other Business

REPORTED:

That the AC21 Research Festival would be held at the University during the first week of July, and that attendance from members of the Board and their junior colleagues would be welcomed.

53/05-06 Reserved Items

See the separate minutes for academic members of the Board of the Faculty only.