

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 25 May 2005.

Present: Professor A Easton (in the Chair), Dr AM Price, Professor J Beynon, Professor MJ Cooper, Professor M Smith, Professor J B Copas, Dr K Flint, Dr G Martin, Dr J Robinson, Professor M Wills, Professor D Singer.

Apologies: Professor RC Ball, Professor C Dowson, Professor R Freedman, Professor D Haddleton, Dr S Joseph, Dr D Morley, Professor M Paterson, Dr C Sparrow, Professor MF Steel, Dr RA Beare, Professor SK Bhattacharya, Professor S Bright, Professor DG Chetwynd, Professor PJ Derrick, Professor JW Gardner, Professor RJ Green, Professor K Lamberts, Professor G Nudd, Professor D Peled, Professor DA Rand, Professor PR Taylor, Professor H Thomas, Dr R Tribe, Professor L Roberts, Mr D Kelley.

In Attendance: Ms H Ireland

MINUTES

34/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 9 February 2005 be approved.

35/04-05 Matters arising on the minutes

36/04-05 Chairs Business

(a) Faculty Advisory Board

RECIEVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the progress towards the next meeting of the Faculty Advisory Board.

REPORTED:

- (i) That the secretariat was seeking to place committee dates in the timetable.
- (ii) That a future meeting of the Faculty Advisory Board would include discussion with the Director of Careers on interaction with employers on opportunities for current students and graduates.
- (iii) That departments were encouraged to bring forward to the Secretariat proposals of topics for discussion by the Faculty Advisory Board.

(b) Faculty Research Committee

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on progress on the Faculty Research Committee.

(c) Science Innovation Awards

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the Science Innovation Awards.

REPORTED:

- (i) That the EPSRC Science and Innovation Awards (awarded in conjunction with HEFCE) aimed to address the concern that areas of strategic research in the UK may have been compromised in their ability to sustain the necessary 'research capacity' in the future, with a consequent adverse impact on the international standing of UK research.
- (ii) That the objective of these awards would be to enable universities to enhance capacity by fostering research groups in important areas of national need within EPSRC's remit.
- (iii) That the EPSRC had stated that they intended making approximately five awards of £3 million and that up to three bids could be submitted by an institution.
- (iv) Contact details for individuals within the institution, with experience of Science Innovation Awards bids were available from the secretariat.

(d) Changes to the Secretariat

REPORTED:

- (i) That Mr Kerry France would replace Jonathan Wylie as Assistant Secretary to the Board of the Faculty of Science and its subordinate committees.
- (ii) That Jonathan Wylie would replace Yvonne Salter Wright as Secretary to the Board of the Faculty of Science and its subordinate committees.

37/04-05 Report from the Sub-Faculty

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Faculty of Science held on 4 May 2005.

38/04-05 Report from the Graduate Studies Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 11 May 2005.

39/04-05 Report from the Faculty IT Committee

RECEIVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Science IT Committee held on 28 April 2005 noting the following points:

- (a) The construction of Storage Area Network for the Faculty of Science.
- (b) The discussion of changes in structure to departmental IT support staff.

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the Chair acting on behalf of the Committee would seek further information on the progress of procurement of a Storage Area Network for the Faculty of Science
- (d) That the Board of the Faculty of Science did not support a proposal that departmental support staff should have a reporting line directly to IT Services.
- (e) That greater collaboration between departmental IT support and IT Services was to be encouraged.

40/04-05 Periodic Reviews

REPORTED:

- (a) That the Periodic Review of Courses of Study in the Department of Chemistry was scheduled to take place in June and that the report of that Periodic Review would be considered at the meeting of the Board in the forthcoming academic year.
- (b) That the report of the Periodic Review of Courses of Study in the Department of Psychology and the departmental response would be considered at the meeting of the Board in the forthcoming academic year.

CONSIDERED:

(c) Department of Statistics

- (i) The report of the Periodic Review of Courses of Study in the Department of Statistics (BFS.14/04-05).
- (ii) The response from the Department of Statistics to the Periodic Review report (BFS.23/04-05).

RESOLVED:

- (d) That all departments were encouraged to remain proactive in their approach to joint degrees and should review and report to other departments on areas of best practice.
- (e) That the above report of the Periodic Review of Courses of Study in the Department of Statistics and subsequent departmental response should be approved as set out in papers BFS.14&23/04-05, noting that clarification of any points of ambiguity in periodic review reports should be clarified prior to the circulation of a final document.

41/04-05 Examinations and Marking

CONSIDERED:

- (a) A draft response from the Faculty on examinations and marking practices as set out in a report from the Examinations and Marking Sub-Group of the Board (BFS.15/04-05).
- (b) A response from the Director of the Language Centre on the implications of the elimination of the Seymour formula on the take-up of language options by Science students.

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the contents of the above draft response (BFS.15/04-05) form the basis of a report to AQSC on continued use of the Seymour formula in the calculation of overall marks for examinations and on the harmonisation of marking scales and degree classifications across the institution.
- (d) That the response from the Director of the Language Centre be appended to the above report.

42/04-05 Faculty Elections

CONSIDERED:

(a) Committees of the Board of the Faculty of Science

The proposed constitutions and nominations for memberships of the following committees for the academic year 2005/06:

- (i) Board of the Faculty of Science (BFS.16/03-04).
- (ii) Sub-Faculty of Science (BFS.17/03-04).
- (iii) Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Science (BFS.18/03-04).
- (iv) Faculty of Science Information Technology Committee (BFS.19/03-04).
- (v) First Year Board of Examiners (BFS.20/03-04).
- (vi) Examination Appeals Committee (BFS.21/03-04).
- (vii) Other Board Elections (BFS.22/04-05)

(b) Directors of Research Centres

The nomination of Professor Mark Smith to replace Professor R Dupree as a Director of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre for the academic year 2005/06.

RESOLVED:

- (c) That the proposed constitutions and nominations for memberships of the above committees be approved as set out in papers BFS.16-22/04-05 noting the following:
 - (i) That a second representative of the Board of the Faculty of Science to serve on the Board of Undergraduate Studies for 2005/06 be sought following the Board.
 - (ii) That a representative of the Board of the Faculty of Science to serve on the Warwick Active Community Steering Group for 2005/06 be sought following the Board.

- (d) The above nomination of Professor Mark Smith to replace Professor R Dupree as a Director of the Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Centre for the academic year 2005/06 be approved.

43/04-05 Additional items to be referred to Senate

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the issue of the necessity of a correct and significant budget for establishment of departments and any campus in Asia must be sufficient from the outset and that this should not jeopardise in any way the activity and development of the Warwick campus.
- (b) That the board would welcome the opportunity of all aspects of this project to be discussed fully prior to any decision to proceed being made in October.

44/04-05 2006 Warwick AC21 Forum (Academic Consortium 21st Century)

REPORTED:

That the 2006 International Forum of the Academic Consortium 21st Century (AC21), titled 'Universities, Innovation and the Global Age', will be held at the University of Warwick from 3 July until 7th July 2006.

45/04-05 Reserved Items

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