

**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**  
**BOARD OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE**  
**OPEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 MAY 2022**  
**VIA MS TEAMS**

<b>Present</b>	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	LF	Chair
	Professor Gary Bending	GB	Life Sciences
	Professor Robin Clark	RCI	Warwick Manufacturing Group
	Professor Steven Dixon	SD	Physics
	Alex Fletcher	AF	Postgraduate Research Student Representative
	Professor Pierre-Philippe Fraiture	PF	Board of the Faculty of Arts Representative
	Professor Miriam Gifford	MG	Life Sciences
	Professor John Greenlees	JG	Mathematics
	Michelle Heinrich	MH	Undergraduate student representative
	Professor Paul Jennings	PJ	Warwick Manufacturing Group
	Professor Adam Johansen	AJ	Statistics
	Professor Georgia Kremmyda	GK	Faculty Education Committee Representative
	Professor Sudhesh Kumar	SK	Warwick Medical School
	Professor Mark Newton	MN	Physics
	Dr Anastasia Papavasileiou	AP	Faculty Education Committee Representative
	Professor James Robinson	JCR	Mathematics
	Professor Jose Rodrigo	JLR	Faculty Education Committee Representative
	Professor Yulia Timofeeva	YT	Computer Science
	Dr Helen Toner	HT	Faculty Senior Tutor
	Professor David Towers	DT	Engineering
	Dr Cagatay Turkey	CT	Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences Representative
	Professor Mike Ward	MW	Chemistry
Professor Derrick Watson	DW	Psychology	
Professor Martin Wills	MW	Faculty Education Committee Representative	
<b>Attending</b>	Sam Cole	SC	Assistant Director R&IS – Head of REF Futures, Policy and Delivery [item 033]
	Ruth Cooper	RCo	Faculty Director of Administration
	Kate Courage	KC	Library observer
	Craig Franklin	CF	Secretary
	Phil Griffiths	PG	Assistant Secretary (minute taker)
	Carole Harris	CH	Assistant Director R&IS – Head of Research Governance [item 036]
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Item</b>		
028	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michelle Heinrich (UG student) as Faculty Rep for SEM following by-election. Michelle had also been re-elected for 22/23 so would join Faculty Board again in the Autumn.</li> <li>Kate Courage (in attendance) as Library observer, replacing Karen Jackson.</li> <li>Phil Griffiths as Assistant Secretary</li> </ul> <p>Apologies were received from Professor David Davies, Professor David Haddleton, Professor Yulan He, Dr Fiona MacCallum, Professor Jon Forster, Professor Rebecca Kearney, Professor Toby Mottram</p>		
029	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>No new declarations were made.</p>		

030	<p><b>Minutes of last meeting on 24 February 2022</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2022 were <b>approved</b>.</p>
031	<p><b>Matters arising from last meeting on 24 February 2022</b></p> <p>No matters arising were reported.</p>
<b>Chair's Update</b>	
032	<p><b>Chair's Business and Actions</b></p> <p><b>(a) Good news from the Faculty</b>  Paper below the line with full list (039-BFSEM260522 {public} refers), including the seven WMG items.</p> <p><b>Chemistry</b>  Three PhD students awarded poster prizes at recent Crystallographic Association meeting.  Congratulations to Phillip Stansfeld on two recent Nature publications.</p> <p><b>Engineering</b>  Recent grant awards: Neophytou Neophytos (Phytos) award of an ERC Consolidator grant and a Doctoral Network award for Xiaowei Zhao.  Sonali Patel, 3rd year Civil Engineering Undergraduate, has won the Built Environment Undergraduate of the Year with AECOM part of the targetjobs Undergraduate of the Year Awards Grand Final. The awards event was hosted by Sue Perkins and took place in Canary Wharf on 29th April.</p> <p><b>Maths</b>  Inna Capdeboscq's EPSRC Established Career Fellowship (this item was reported to the BFSEM secretariat after paper circulation and so was not included in the written report).  Karen Vogtmann has been elected to the US National Academy of Sciences</p> <p><b>Psychology</b>  Dieter Wolke to lead €2.8M PRETERM-LIFECOURSE project funded by European Research Council, to study whether age related function, disease and the time we may die is already determined in the womb and at birth.</p> <p><b>BBSRC ALERT Equipment Grants</b>  The School of Life Sciences and Chemistry had also been successful in applying for BBSRC ALERT Equipment grants.</p> <p><b>(b) Thesis and PostDoc Thesis Prize Winners</b>  The chair congratulated the winners, and everyone else involved, noting that the quality of papers were very high and demonstrated excellence across the faculty. The list of prize winners had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting (038-BFSEM260522 {public}, refers).</p> <p><b>(c) Reasonable Adjustments in Examinations</b>  The Chair noted the concern raised in the SEMEC report (037-BFSEM260522 {public} refers) around support for face to face exams, in particular administering the unusually high number of requests for reasonable adjustments, and the Chair had raised this matter with the Provost and Academic Registrar.</p> <p><b>(d) Standard Committee Report/Coversheet Templates</b></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The secretary to the Board would submit a request to the Institutional Governance team to amend the committee meeting coversheet templates to add two additional tick-box questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will this impact on departments and workloads?</li> <li>• Have departments been consulted?</li> </ul>

## Main Items

033

### REF

The Head of REF Futures, Policy and Delivery presented the overview of the Faculty REF results with key points and discussions as below:

- The [REF2021 results](#) were published by Research England on 12 May 2022.
- Warwick's REF2021 submission comprised 1,252.4 FTE of 'CAT A' staff; 2,930 outputs; 104 impact case studies; and ~242,000 words of environment narrative across 22 unit-level statements and 1 institutional-level statement.
- 50% of Warwick's submitted research was awarded the highest possible rating of 'world leading' (4 stars). A further 42% was rated 'internationally excellent' (3 stars).
- From the various [Times Higher Education REF2021 ranking tables](#):
  - Warwick had been ranked joint 15th alongside the University of Edinburgh in the [overall institutional rankings table](#).
  - Faculty departments which had ranked in the top 10 of [subject rankings tables](#) included Computer Science (4<sup>th</sup>) and Mathematical Sciences (6<sup>th</sup>).
  - Warwick had ranked 7<sup>th</sup> overall for '[outputs](#)', and was 6<sup>th</sup> in the Russell Group.
  - Warwick's [environment metrics](#) were also strong.
  - Warwick had improved its [impact scores](#) but there was work more work to be done in this area. Views on this from the faculty were welcomed, noting that impact metrics were likely to be increasing in importance in future REF exercises.
- Research England had indicated the new REF2021 based funding formula was expected to be published in July 2022.
- Panel feedback was likely to be made available to universities in June 2022 and then would then be disseminated to Heads of Departments as soon possible.
- The library, as 'owner' of the WRAP system, was liaising with JISC on procurement of an alternative system, noting that JISC had agreements in place with several suppliers. SC had also made a recommendation to the library that an academic group be convened to support the procurement process.
- DS reported that there had been a significant moderation of impact scores which may imply that the assessment criteria had not been set at the correct levels. Some feedback over moderation applied was necessary, along with reassurance from Research England that rankings had not been adversely affected as a result.

**ACTION 1:** SC to review main panel report to identify any references to moderation and investigate further, then report back to the Faculty.

- SC and SD reported that the Warwick Impact Capture system was a good system which provided equivalent functionality to other commercially available systems, and that WBS had been able to implement development when required within reasonable timeframes. Whilst the Warwick Impact Capture system would remain the system for capturing impact, SC invited feedback to help influence how the system was developed, or to lobby for a replacement system if future development work would not be possible.
- In response to a query from MW, SC noted that the university was working to provide leadership and influence in setting the sector-wide research agenda, as well as ensure future REFs would be properly constituted;
- DS reported that the web app made available to departments by RIS had been very helpful in working through the REF outcomes.

**ACTION 2:** SC to report back on any insights relating to interdisciplinarity from REF2021, noting that one of the elements of the future research assessment programme would be to look at interdisciplinarity.

- In response to a query from SD, consideration was being given to the creation of a senior academic leadership position around impact. Feedback from colleagues on this was invited.
- The Chair extended their gratitude on behalf of the Board and Faculty for the support provided by SC and the REF team.

034	<p><b>STEM Grand Challenge</b></p> <p>Georgia Kremmyda presented an update on the STEM Transformation (Education). The presentation slides and membership of the Education Workstream were subsequently made available to members on the filestore at: <a href="https://files.warwick.ac.uk/sciencefacultyboard/browse#Faculty+SEM+Board/2021-2022/2022.05.26">https://files.warwick.ac.uk/sciencefacultyboard/browse#Faculty+SEM+Board/2021-2022/2022.05.26</a></p> <p>Key points and discussions were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 80 participants were involved in the governance and delivery of the STEM Transformation (Education) programme. This comprised a Steering Group, Curriculum Development Teams, and Transformation Teams which would explore innovative pedagogies and opportunities for digital transformation, blended learning and online/distance learning provision.</li> <li>• External international market research had been undertaken which comprised 3 phases:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase 1 Online survey, which was completed in December 2021. 2,078 responses had been obtained from potential Master’s degree students spanning a range of target subject areas.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Key messages from Phase 1 respondents included:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blended learning approaches should continue with structured online self-managed learning.</li> <li>• More social, quiet study spaces, and computer suites.</li> <li>• Informal learning for consolidating content (e.g. facilitated by PGR students)</li> <li>• Small group teaching to solve problems and interact within a team (e.g. tutorials or equivalent).</li> <li>• Peer-to-peer support integrated into our teaching and learning.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Phase 2 Analysis and discussion - six programme concepts were identified Warwick already had teaching expertise and were then carried forward into follow-up focus groups. The programme concepts were:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Artificial Intelligence in Health,</li> <li>▪ Decarbonising the Planet,</li> <li>▪ Future Cities and Communities,</li> <li>▪ Water and Life on Earth,</li> <li>▪ Affordable and Sustainable Systems in a Changing World,</li> <li>▪ Medical Imaging and Diagnostics.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Phase 3 Focus Groups – 10 video focus groups segmented by subject area, with interested students, to test the six programme concepts and their underpinning principles, and provide more qualitative feedback.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Consideration had been given to launching new programmes under the title “Science for Sustainable Futures”. The programmes would be interdisciplinary and cross-faculty where possible. The signature pedagogy would be ‘learning by doing’ for at least 1/3 of contact hours and would allow a substantial amount of optionality.</li> <li>• Intention was to launch the following programmes in 2023 [further details relating to these programmes were provided in the <a href="#">presentation slides</a>]:       <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MSc Predictive Modelling and Scientific Computing</li> <li>○ MSc Decarbonising the Planet</li> <li>○ MSc Medical Diagnostics</li> <li>○ BSc Environmental Science (Degree Apprenticeship)</li> <li>○ MSc Analytical Science (Degree Apprenticeship)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Chair expressed the Board’s gratitude to GK for the substantial progress that had been achieved to date.</li> </ul>
035	<p><b>Warwick in China</b></p> <p>This item was deferred to a later meeting of the Board.</p>

036	<p><b>Proposal for the Establishment of a Category II Research Centre – ‘Centre for the Applications of Mathematical Sciences’</b></p> <p>The Head of Research Governance and secretary to the Research Committee presented the report (036-BFSEM260522 {public}). The new interdisciplinary research centre had been proposed by the departments of Statistics, Computer Science, and the Mathematics Institute.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> The Board <b>recommended</b> the establishment of the ‘Centre for the Applications of Mathematical Sciences’, as set out in 036-BFSEM260522 {public}, to the Research Committee.</p>
<i>Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion</i>	
037	<p><b>Items from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine Education Committee</b></p> <p>The Committee received (037-BFSEM260522 {public}).</p>
038	<p><b>Thesis and PostDoc Thesis Prize Winners</b></p> <p>The Committee received (038-BFSEM260522 {public}).</p>
039	<p><b>Good News from the Faculty</b></p> <p>The Committee received (039-BFSEM260522 {public}).</p>
<b>Other</b>	
040	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>JR reported that the Board of the Faculty of Arts had a standing item which was a report from its student representatives</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> LF to discuss with MH introducing a standing item on the SEM Faculty Board agenda for its student representatives to provide a student representative report.</p>
<b>Next meeting: 14:30, Thursday 24 November 2022</b>	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS			
ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
<b>2021-2022</b>			
<b>028 - Chair’s Business and Actions – (d) Standard Committee Report/Coversheet Templates</b>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> The secretary to the Board would submit a request to the Institutional Governance team to amend the committee meeting coversheet templates to add two additional tick box questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will this impact on departments and workloads?</li> <li>• Have departments been consulted?</li> </ul>	CF	Complete
<b>033 - REF</b>	<p><b>ACTION 1:</b> SC to review main panel report to identify any references to moderation and investigate further, then report back to the Faculty.</p>	SC, tbc	In progress
	<p><b>ACTION 2:</b> SC to report back on any insights relating to interdisciplinarity from REF2021, noting that one of the elements of the future research assessment programme would be to look at interdisciplinarity.</p>	SC, tbc	In progress
<b>036 - Proposal for the Establishment of a Category II Research Centre</b>	<p><b>DECISION:</b> The Board <b>recommended</b> the establishment of the ‘Centre for the Applications of Mathematical Sciences’, as set out in 036-BFSEM260522 {public}, to the Research Committee.</p>		
<b>040 – Any Other Business</b>	<p><b>ACTION:</b> LF to discuss with MH introducing a standing item on the SEM Faculty Board agenda for its student representatives to provide a student representative report.</p>	LF, tbc	