

# UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

FACULTY OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE

Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine  
held on 23 May 2019

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Present: Professor M Shipman (Chair), Dr David Davis (Deputy Chair), A Baker, Professor R Ball, Dr D Britnell, Professor G Brown, Professor H Ferhatosmanoglu, Professor B Finkenstadt, Professor L Frigerio, Dr M Gifford, Professor R Goodwin, Professor J Greenlees, Professor D Haddleton, Dr R Kearney, Professor S Kumar, Professor R Lazic, Professor D Leadley, Professor T Mottram, Dr H Toner, Professor M Ward, Dr D Wood

Apologies: Dr Nick d'Ambrumenil, Professor R Roemer, Professor D Towers

In attendance: L Hasler (Secretary), P Blagburn (Widening Participation Strategy), Y Budden, D Chambers (Recruitment Strategy), R Cooper (Director of Administration), K Gray (Credit and Module Framework), Professor D Lamburn (Review of Assessment) E Lim (International Strategy), Professor M Low (WMG), G Olivieri, V Strudwick (International Strategy), Professor P Tissington, R Wooldridge Smith (Employability Strategy)

## 25/18-19 Conflicts of Interest

REPORTED:

That, should any members or attendees of the Committee have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the CUC Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK, available from <http://www.universitychairs.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Code-Final.pdf>

## 26/18-19 Minutes

CONSIDERED:

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine held on 12 February 2019 (BFSEM.19/18-19) and were agreed to be a correct record.

## 27/18-19 Matters arising on the Minutes

CONSIDERED:

Items from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine Education Committee (minute 16/18-19 refers)

- (a) That following discussion at the Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine meeting on 12 February 2019, the Faculty had allocated £7500 for up to five additional URSS projects for students in the Faculty. Additional funding had subsequently been allocated by the University to allow more projects to go ahead (c200

bursaries of 162 in 2018) and a cut-off for receiving central URSS funding was set at a score of 22 (out of a possible 30). As there had been four Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine applicants to URSS who scored 21, the decision had been made to use the Faculty funding to provide bursaries of £1000 (standard level) to these four students (2 Chemistry, 1 Mathematics and 1 Life Sciences).

It was noted that levels of student engagement with URSS varied between departments, but that some departments also had their own internal schemes which explained relatively low take up for URSS.

It was also noted that there was a limit to how many student projects departments could absorb, and some departments were close to this limit.

RESOLVED:

In response to a request from Dr Kearney, to ask to receive information on URSS applications/successes via gender.

- (b) That the Deputy Chair of the Faculty had liaised with departments of the Faculty to garner views on the review of the credit and module framework, and had fed these back, along with the relevant minute of the meeting, to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) and the acting Head of Teaching Quality.

It was noted that discussions around the credit and module framework were ongoing, and that there had been good discussion at a meeting of the Science, Engineering and Medicine Education Committee on 16 May 2019.

#### 28/18-19 Chair's Business

REPORTED:

- (a) Congratulations were extended to Professor Richard Lilford and Professor Gavin Perkins from WMS, who has been elected to the Academy of Medical Sciences.
- (b) Congratulations were extended to Professor Mark Pollicott (Mathematics) who had been awarded an ERC Advanced Grant.
- (c) Congratulations were extended to Professor Evgeny Rebrov (Engineering), who had been awarded an ERC Synergy Grant of £9m, the first to Warwick and an indication that the EU was continuing to fund UK based research.
- (d) Congratulations were extended to Professor Caroline Meyer (WMG) *et al*, who would be partnering with project leads Coventry University and West Midlands Combined Authority in a new workplace pilot aimed at improving mental health in the workplace.
- (e) The Chair commended those members of Faculty who had been shortlisted for awards as follows:
  - (i) Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence: Keith Ball (mathematics); Suhaib Fahmy (Engineering); Beccy Freeman (Life Sciences); Georgia Kremmyda (Engineering).
  - (ii) Warwick Awards for Teaching Excellence PGR: James Atkinson (Engineering); James Gott (Physics); Richard Henshaw (Physics).

- (iii) Warwick Awards for Personal Tutoring Excellence: David Fox (Chemistry); Leanne Williams (Life Sciences).
- (f) The passing of Professor Lord Bhattacharyya and his contribution to the University of Warwick was observed, noting that the Council had begun the search process for a new Chair of WMG.
- (g) It was noted with some regret that Warwick had fallen out of the top 10 HEIs in the combined university league tables. A discussion ensued regarding league tables, relevant metrics, and the need to give appropriate emphasis to teaching.
- (h) The Chair reported that progress with respect to the STEM Grand Challenge had been made by way of a series of workshops, and that the project had attracted the support of an FA8 post (fixed term three years) within the Strategic Programme Delivery team to help further develop a case for this support.

29/18-19 Faculty Appointments and Elections for 2019/20

(a) Appointment of the Chair of the Board of the Faculty

REPORTED:

That, with the culmination of Professor Mike Shipman's period of office and his appointment as Pro-Vice Chancellor (International), a new Chair of the Faculty had been sought; that expressions of interest were invited by Friday 26 April 2019, and that interviews were held on Friday 10 May.

CONSIDERED:

A recommendation from the Provost of Professor Caroline Meyer (WMG), for the appointment of the Chair of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

RESOLVED:

To recommend the appointment of Professor Meyer to the Provost, noting that this was a strong appointment.

The Deputy Chair thanked Professor Shipman for his leadership both of the Faculty of Science, and of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine, and wished him well in his new role.

(b) Faculty Representation on the Senate

REPORTED:

That the following memberships were due to expire at the end of 18-19:

Dr Dave Britnell (Engineering)  
 Professor Claire Davis (WMG)  
 Professor Frances Griffiths (WMS)

As a result, there would be three three-year vacancies on Senate for any member of the Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

That any member of the Board of the Faculty for the following year was eligible to be appointed to represent the Board on the Senate, provided that the majority of the

representatives appointed by the Board were from Professors and Heads of Departments of the Board.

That nominations had been invited and if these were equal to the number of vacancies, no ballot would be required.

(c) Membership of the Board and its Sub-Committees, and Faculty Representation on Other Committees

REPORTED:

That a request to review representation on Faculty and University committees would be circulated shortly. The Secretariat would write to Heads of Department shortly to nominate colleagues to fill vacancies.

30/18-19 Proposal to establish a Substantive Research Centre: Warwick Interdisciplinary Centre for International Development

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from Professor Shirin Rai to establish a Category II 'Substantive' Research Centre.

RESOLVED:

To approve the establishment of the new centre, with an observation regarding the need to choose a distinctive title to avoid confusion, and a request for feedback regarding whether the review of the global research priorities was in the public domain.

31/18-19 Items from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine Education Committee

RECEIVED:

A report from the Chair of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine Education Committee from the meeting on the held on 16 May 2019, together with reports from the Faculty Widening Participation and Outreach Forum and Faculty Employability Forum.

It was noted that constructive input had been given in respect of the proposed maximum periods of study; that some departments had made significant improvements in respect of reducing feedback turnaround times; and that where turnaround times were consistently poor the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) had asked to be informed.

32/18-19 Review of Assessment

CONSIDERED:

A verbal report (slides circulated retrospectively) from the Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) on next steps and timescale in respect of the streams of activity encompassed by the Review of Assessment.

An observation from Professor D Haddleton, that the meaning of the phrase 'remedying failure' may not be clear to students.

An assurance in response to a question from Professor D Haddleton about whether the opportunity to remedy failure would extend to those laboratory classes where departments had chosen to fail students for non-attendance.

A concern from Professor G Brown regarding the likely impact on departmental workload caused by allowing remedy of failure at the first available opportunity, specifically the time required to create additional examination papers.

An observation by the Chair of the First Year Board of Examiners, that it would not be feasible for the Board to consider marks by the end of the second week in September without moving the resit examination period forward.

An observation from Professor R Ball that it would not be possible to create a mid-year examination period in January that could be protected from all teaching.

An expression of disappointment regarding the proposed implementation date of 20/21 for a standard examination board procedures system.

In response to a comment by Professor G Brown on the relative severity of the proposed borderline algorithm, that in the course of external examining it had been observed that a 2% borderline window was commonplace.

An observation from Professor Haddleton that as only 'working days', rather than 'days' were counted towards the penalty that accrued for late submission of work, some students would calculate the risk and choose to submit late.

#### 33/18-19 Draft Employability Strategy

##### CONSIDERED:

The University's draft employability strategy (and Appendix setting out DHLE results 2016-17) setting out proposed strategic directions and how these would be facilitated, and an oral report from the Academic Director of Employability and Skills; an update on the Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey results for 2016/17 Warwick graduates, proposed actions for improvement, and results. A paper on enrolment data in relation to career-preparedness, a paper describing Faculty specific outcomes, and a paper summarizing the outcomes for all departments.

In response to a request from Dr M Gifford for the strategy to be made more distinctive to Warwick, that this would be difficult as employability needed to be defined at the level of the individual student.

Reassurance in response to a concern from Professor J Greenlees that some flexibility of implementation would be allowed.

An observation from Professor R Ball that integration of transferrable skills acquisition within the curriculum strengthened the case that learning was preparing students for employment better than modules that were primarily focused on increasing employability.

##### RESOLVED:

To recommend the adoption of the strategy.

34/18-19 Open Access Developments

CONSIDERED:

A report on developments with respect to Open Access, particularly Plan S, UKRI OA Policy review and the Wellcome OA Policy, presented by Yvonne Budden, Head of Scholarly Communications.

Concerns were expressed regarding current lack of compliance with Plan S; the prediction that certain countries would refuse to pay the subscription costs; the possible impact on the back catalogue (with specific reference to postgraduate students); and the risk of not meeting Wellcome terms of funding by virtue of not signing the DOA.

35/18-19 Draft Student Recruitment Strategy

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft recruitment strategy, presented by the Director of SROAS.

A request from Professor R Lazic for loads to be reported as well as numbers with respect to taught postgraduate provision.

An observation that with the exception of WMG, departments in the Faculty attract relatively low numbers of taught postgraduate students.

In response to a query from A Baker, that the prevailing view is that Warwick is hard to access, provides high quality education and is well-respected; and that recent media reporting might impact recruitment in the next admissions cycle.

RESOLVED:

To recommend the adoption of the strategy.

36/18-19 Widening Participation Strategy

Professor M Lowe, acting Chair of the Faculty's Widening Participation and Outreach Forum was welcomed to the meeting.

CONSIDERED:

The University's widening participation strategy, presented by Assistant Director of SROAS (Outreach), noting that Warwick was committed in principle to widening participation, not only because of OfS targets.

In response to a query from Professor R Ball, that the University will work in partnership with local FE colleges, and would also need to work collaboratively with other HEIs and also charities.

In response to a query about the cost to departments of supporting students who were admitted with contextual offers, that if necessary departments could be supported with this but an evidence based approach would be needed.

37/18-19 Draft Internationalisation Strategy

CONSIDERED:

The University's draft internationalisation strategy, presented by the Associate Director, International Strategy and Relations and International Partnerships Managers.

In response to a query from Professor R Goodwin, confirmation that there was a strategy to endeavour to expand Warwick's global reputation beyond the small number of institutions it was currently in partnership with.

In response to an observation from Professor D Leadley, that international partnerships take a long time to evolve and some stability was required, that sometimes unplanned opportunities arise that are worthy of exploration.

An observation from Professor M Wills, that the creation of joint PhDs required a disproportionate amount of effort and that it was therefore better to encourage visiting students.

In response to a query from Professor R Lazic about to what extent the Monash Alliance had been successful, that this partnership had significantly increased Warwick's reputation in Australia.

An explanation that colleagues in Teaching Quality were available to support the evolution of partnerships, and it was better that each case was looked at on an individual basis rather than creating a framework.

38/18-19 Any Other Business

A discussion regarding the inherent difficulty in the Board of the Faculty being asked to approve strategies when all of the implications for departments were not always clear at the approval stage.

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**ITEMS TO REPORT AND APPROVE WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION**

39/18-19 Timeliness of Feedback

RECEIVED:

A composite report on timeliness of feedback on assessment submitted in the Spring Term 2019 across the Faculty, received by the Science Faculty Education Committee on 16 May 2019.

40/18-19 Date of Future Meetings

REPORTED:

That the next meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine for the academic year 2019/20 are currently scheduled as follows:

Term 1     Monday 11 November 2019

12:00 – 14:00 Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Medicine  
Lunch  
14:00 – 16:00 Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine

Term 2 Monday 3 February 2020

12:00 – 14:00 Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Medicine  
Lunch  
14:00 – 16:00 Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine

Term 3 Monday 18 May 2020

12:00 – 14:00 Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering & Medicine  
Lunch  
14:00 – 16:00 Board of the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine

All meetings to be held in CMR 1.0, University House.