

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
BOARD OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MEDICINE
OPEN/ RESTRICTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2020
VIA MS TEAMS

Present	Professor Caroline Meyer	CM	Chair
	Alex Baker	AB	Postgraduate Research Student representative
	Jasmine Brittan	JB	Undergraduate Student representative
	Dr Fabio Camilletti	FC	Board of the Faculty of Arts representative
	Professor Robin Clark	RC	Warwick Manufacturing Group
	Dr Nick d'Ambrumenil	NdA	Faculty Education Committee representative
	Professor David Davies	DD	Deputy Chair (until agendum 009)
	Professor Hakan Ferhatosmanoglu	FH	Computer Science
	Alex Fletcher	AF	Undergraduate Student representative
	Professor Jon Forster	JF	Statistics
	Professor Lorenzo Frigerio	LF	Life Sciences
	Dr Miriam Gifford	MG	Life Sciences
	Professor John Greenlees	JG	Mathematics
	Professor David Haddleton	DH	Chemistry
	Professor Paul Jennings	PJ	Warwick Manufacturing Group
	Professor Rebecca Kearney	RK	Warwick Medical School
	Professor Sudhesh Kumar	SK	Warwick Medical School
	Professor Ranko Lazic	RL	Computer Science
	Professor David Leadley	DL	Physics (from 15:00)
	Professor Toby Mottram	TM	Engineering
	Professor Mark Newton	MN	Physics
	Dr Anastasia Papavasileiou	AP	Faculty Education Committee representative
	Professor Gareth Roberts	GB	Statistics
	Professor James Robinson	JCR	Mathematics
	Professor Jose Rodrigo	JLR	Faculty Education Committee representative
	Shikhar Singh	SS	Undergraduate Student representative
	Dr Helen Toner	HT	Faculty Senior Tutor
	Professor Mike Ward	MWd	Chemistry
	Professor Chris Warhurst	CW	Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences representative
	Professor Derrick Watson	DW	Psychology
	Professor Martin Wills	MW	Faculty Education Committee representative
	Attending	Amanda Bishop	AB
Paul Blagburn		PB	Assistant Director of SROAS, Outreach
Ruth Cooper		RC	Faculty Director of Administration
Rob Cross		RC	Director, Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology
Robin Green		RG	Librarian
Carole Harris		CH	Assistant Director of R&IS
Louise Hasler		LH	Secretary
Karen Jackson		KJ	Academic Support Manager, Library
Lola Oyebode		LO	Director, Centre for Applied Health Research and Delivery
Dr Leandro Pecchia		LP	Engineer (Observer)
Ref	Item		

001	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from David Leadley, Fiona MacCallum and David Towers.</p>
002	<p>Declarations of Interest No new declarations were made.</p>
003	<p>Membership and Terms of Reference 2020-21 The Chair welcomed new staff members as follows: Robin Clark (WMG); Anastasia Papavasileiou (Statistics), who is a member of SEMEC and represents UG education on the Board and James Robinson (Maths); and also new student members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UG representatives- Jasmine Brittan and Shikhar Singh (Engineering); Alex Fletcher (Chemistry) • Returning PGR representative - Alex Baker (Chemistry) <p>The Chair also welcomed Leandro Pecchia (Engineering) as an attendee ‘shadowing’ a Head of Department.</p> <p>It was noted that no student had stood to be elected as a postgraduate student representative.</p> <p>The Secretary confirmed that the Terms of Reference were historical and that any proposed amendment would need the approval of the Boards of other Faculties. The Secretary thanked Heads of Department for their contribution to successfully filling all committee vacancies.</p>
004	<p>Minutes of last meeting held on 3 February 2020 The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020 (004.BFSEM.20-21) were received and approved.</p>
005	<p>Matters arising from last meeting held on 3 February 2020 / Matters progressed by correspondence over the summer period</p> <p>(a) Cold Storage Policy It was reported that consideration of the first draft of the policy had been by correspondence; this further draft was accompanied by a table which indicated how each of the comments received had been addressed. Members were asked to provide any further feedback to the Secretary with a view to approval of a final version by Chair’s action.</p> <p>(b) Centre for Tissue Image Analytics It was reported that the establishment of this centre had been considered by correspondence and feedback had been supportive, although SLS had invited direct consultation because of the large amount of interest in tissue imaging in SLS. This consultation had now occurred.</p> <p>(c) (Minute 024 19-20) The Secretary had been asked to investigate current barriers to PGR students attending Welcome events. It was reported that international students were not limited by their visas: the issue related to when students were paid their PhD stipends (usually quarterly in advance, but not before the official start date). The barrier therefore was that Welcome Week sets an expectation that students attended campus prior to the payment of their stipend/start of their PhD.</p> <p>This structural constraint was noted but it was agreed that further thought should be given to how to create opportunities for postgraduate research students to be involved in Warwick Welcome. Action LH</p>
006	<p>Chair’s Business and Actions The Chair provided a verbal update on the STEM Grand Challenge. The Strategic Brief document, outlining the outputs of Phase 0 of the project is now available via the STEM Grand Challenge webpage. The brief, and next steps, have been approved by University Executive Board, Estates Committee and Council and funding has now been agreed for Phase 1 design and associated work streams. The Chair reported that £175k had been received from the British Council for 5 scholarships for women students from South Asian countries.</p>

	It was agreed that we would add in a Faculty Good News item to future agendas and ask that departments let the Secretary know of anything they would like to include. ACTION LH
007	<p>Social Inclusion Update</p> <p>The Chair reported that she would like the Faculty to operate a more joined up approach in respect of progress towards improving social inclusion. Areas of interest that would be turned into task groups include race equality, women in STEM, widening participation and outreach/partnerships. These groups would help to translate existing actions and identify new actions departments needed to take and how they could be supported to do deliver change.</p>
008	<p>University Research Centres – Triennial Review</p> <p>The Committee received the report (008.BFSEM.20-21) in which it was invited to consider the paperwork provided by University Research Centres subject to triennial review in 2020-21 and to make recommendations to the Research Committee regarding their continuation or disestablishment. The information on Research Centres outwith the Faculty of SEM was provided for information.</p> <p>Lola Oyebode, Director, spoke to the Centre for Applied Health Research and Delivery. LO reported that the centre had been successful in receiving funding for global health research projects since its inception and has been financially self-sustaining since 2018. It was particularly known for its work on ‘slum health’. A new Director was currently being recruited and the aspiration was to build upon current successes in the area of quality health services and non-communicable diseases in low to middle income countries.</p> <p>The Board approved the continuation of the Centre for Applied Health Research and Delivery without further recommendations.</p> <p>Rob Cross Centre, Director, spoke to the Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology. RC set out that the essence of the work of the centre was to answer ‘How does life work?’ Tangible achievements had been to drive recruitment, improve income, grow the science and develop new technology e.g. the eduWOSM microscope had been developed and harnessed for use by student so the innovative MSci Integrated Science. Some members of the centre would move to the new IBRB to set up new labs in pursuit of the overall scientific strategy to expand mechanochemical cell biology to include tissue mechanobiology.</p> <p>The Board approved the continuation of the Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology without further recommendations.</p> <p>Carole Harris, Assistant Director of R&IS, spoke to the disestablishment of Warwick Industrial Biotechnology and Biorefining (WIBB) and Warwick Data Science Institute (WDSI). The Board approved the disestablishment of Warwick Industrial Biotechnology and Biorefining (WIBB) without further recommendations.</p> <p>There was discussion around the timescale for the disestablishment of Warwick Data Science Institute (WDSI). It was noted that WDSI had been largely inactive for two years and the intention was for the work to be replicated by Warwick Data, which would operate at an institutional level. It was clarified for the benefit of RL that Warwick Data would not have the status of an official centre of the time being. JF’s view was that WDSI ought not to be disestablished until there was clarity regarding what Warwick Data would become.</p> <p>The Board therefore approved the disestablishment of Warwick Data Science Institute but with the caveat that there should be a smooth and timely transition from WDSI to Warwick Data and that the disestablishment should not take effect before there was certainly that none of its benefits would be lost.</p>
009	<p>Items from the Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine Education Committee</p> <p>The Committee received report (009.BFSEM.20-21) on the meeting of the Faculty Education Committee held on 27 October 2020 without the benefit of additional context or emphasis from the Chair, who had to leave the meeting due to ill health.</p> <p>There was some discussion, instigated by NdA, on embracing Black Lives Matter. He argued that we should work to help students with protected characteristics, but that aligning the Faculty with the political movement,</p>

	<p>Black Lives Matter, was not helpful. Clarification was offered by AB that the paper had not intended explicit alignment with that political movement (BLM) and that the title could have been more representative of the paper’s contents. AB highlighted that the intention of the paper was to outline what could be learned from BLM and the communities it represented. Further assurance was received from LF that the SLS did not wish to sign up to the BLM political movement either.</p> <p>NdA also cautioned against appearing to belittle students and prospective students, who are white. The phrase <i>white, middle class "Brits"</i> was used in the paper considered at SEMEC and could be considered pejorative. The Chair was supportive of the wish to ensure that the demographic of all students was included in work to reduce attainment gaps and offered as an example white male students from lower socio-economic groups, for whom achievement was often relatively low.</p> <p>NdA shared a link to the transcript in Hansard of a speech given by the Minister for Equalities in the House of Commons on 20 October 2020. The Minister <u>stated</u> that the Government did not believe that the University curriculum needed to be de-colonised and particularly not in maths, engineering and the sciences. NdA argued that improving the curriculum for our students should be a priority. It should be possible to do this without deliberately confronting the Government.</p> <p>AB concurred that the government’s misunderstanding of the true meaning of decolonisation was part of the problem and that issue was wider than one of curriculum, i.e. it was more difficult for researchers from the global South to be published than those from the Global North. AB also stressed that what we teach and how we teach has ethical and political dimensions and that these should matter– therefore reflecting a broader array of viewpoints from different communities is important and more representative of our fields.</p> <p>MWd emphasised the importance of choosing the right vocabulary when approaching the issue of what we can do to support and include certain groups.</p> <p>HT offered the view that there was a difference between being inclusive and making an attempt to belittle the majority.</p> <p>AP took the opportunity to emphasise that the workloads of staff working in academic departments continued to be very challenging and that whilst there had been some welcome compromises delivered (e.g. the removal of the expectation of creating a first sit and resit examination paper simultaneously) colleagues continued to face some significant difficulties, e.g. the relative lack of postgraduate research students available to assist with undergraduate teaching. This situation was ratified by colleagues from the departments of Chemistry, Mathematics and Psychology. The Chair agreed to consider what steps might be taken to alleviate this problem. <u>ACTION CM</u></p>
010	<p>National Student Survey</p> <p>A report on the NSS 2020 was received (010.BFSEM.20-21). The Chair reported that this had already been received by a number of committees, including the Senate. Members were asked to note that 93% of responses pre-dated Covid-19; overall a sense of belonging to a learning community has diminished.</p> <p>It was reported that the Dean of Students had been working with departments to share and support development of practice in respect of increasing the strength of learning communities and that the University was running NSS 2021 along very similar lines to 2020, although it was expected that response thresholds might be lowered slightly. The Secretary indicated that one of Warwick’s bespoke questions was likely to be around which aspects of the blended learning experience should be retained.</p>

	JCR queried the relevance of relatively small changes in overall percentage improvements in drawing conclusions about the effectiveness of strategies, e.g. of the order of 2%. It was agreed that this would be fed back to the NSS lead in Education Policy and Quality. <u>ACTION LH.</u>
011	<p>Welcome Trust Revised Open Access Policy (Implementing the Principles for Evaluation of Research)</p> <p>Robin Green (University Librarian) spoke to the paper (011.BFSEM.20-21) which provided the key new requirements of the Wellcome Trust's revised Open Access policy for journals, which comes into force on 01 January 2021. It was noted that one of the requirements was that Wellcome-funded institutions commit to implementing fair and responsible approaches to evaluation of research and make public an implementation plan.</p> <p>JCR queried whether the principles of evaluation of research were yet to be approved. RG confirmed that they had been approved in 2019 but that the development of measures would be done in close conjunction with academic departments.</p> <p>DH observed that the direction of travel would still allow for comparisons between the volume of citations to be made.</p> <p>The Board noted that requirements of the revised Wellcome Trust policy and the outline implementation plan.</p>
012	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Widening Participation Priorities 20-21 (012.BFSEM.20-21 Tabled)</p> <p>Paul Blagburn (Assistant Director of SROAS, Outreach) spoke to a report which provided proposed access and participation priorities for 2020-21 in line with the commitments made in the University's Access and Participation Plan (APP) and Widening Participation Strategy and also served as a reminder of the Specified Information related to the implementation of the University's approved APP. PB indicated that as well as acting as a reminder of regulatory responsibilities it allowed some finessing of areas of the AAP that had evolved since their approval.</p> <p>PB drew attention to the relatively high withdrawal rates of under-represented groups and the need to understand what lay beneath the data.</p> <p>It was noted that the APP implementation requirements would require a response to the OfS in January 2022.</p> <p>It was noted that some positive progress had been made in respect of the black attainment gap.</p> <p>Amanda Bishop (Widening Participation Faculty Coordinator) flagged that individualised data sets that would allow the demographic of the current intake to be fully understood were now available to Heads of Department and department leads on widening participation. It was agreed that AB would draw this link to the attention of Heads of Department.</p> <p>AB emphasised her willingness to share good practice and to support departments to understand how they could move forward.</p>
<i>Items below this line were for receipt and/or approval, without discussion</i>	
013	<p>Representation on Faculty and University Committees</p> <p>The report (013.BFSEM.20-21) was received without discussion.</p>
Next meeting: 14.00, Thursday 4 February 2021	

DECISIONS AND ACTIONS

ITEM	DECISION/ACTION	LEAD AND DUE DATE	STATUS
2020-2021			
005	To raise with the Welcome team and Doctoral College in the first instance about alternative approaches to involving PGR students in Warwick Welcome, e.g. to offer some virtual sessions.	LH	Completed
006	Secretariat to seek 'good news' stories for further Board meetings.	LH and All members.	Ongoing
009	To speak to the Provost about the relative lack of PGR students to teach undergraduate students regarding the underpinning reasons for this lack of resource and possible alternative strategies and to follow up with the Director of Administration for the Faculty.	CM, next meeting.	In progress
011	To feedback to the NSS Lead in Education Policy and Quality that that the relevance of improvements of the order of 1 or 2% points should be further considered.	LH, November 2020	Completed