

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of the Faculty of Social Studies

There will be a meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies at 10am on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007 in the Council Chamber, University House.

C E Charlton  
University Secretary

Note: Questions on agendum items or apologies for this meeting should be directed to the Secretary of the Board, Alison Backhouse: [A.Backhouse@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:A.Backhouse@warwick.ac.uk).

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A G E N D A

1. Constitution, Membership & Terms of Reference

TO REPORT:

- (a) That paragraph (4) of Statute 21 (on page 69 of the University Calendar 2006-07) states that the Board of each Faculty shall have the following powers and functions:
  - (i) To regulate, subject to these Statutes and the Ordinances and Regulations and to review by the Senate, the teaching, research, curricula and examinations in the subjects prescribed for the Faculty.
  - (ii) To recommend to the Senate examiners for appointment. To make recommendations to the Senate for the award of Degrees (other than Honorary Degrees), Diplomas, Certificates and other distinctions in the subjects prescribed for the Faculty.
  - (iii) To recommend to the Senate Sub-Faculties and Departments to be constituted by the Council.
  - (iv) To delegate to the Sub-Faculties such matters as are deemed appropriate.
  - (v) To appoint members of the Board of the Faculty to be members of the Senate as provided for under Statute 19.
  - (vi) To discharge such other functions as the Senate may from time to time determine.
- (b) That, following a postal ballot held in the summer term 2007, Professor R Lindley was elected to the position of Chair of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies for 2007-08.

TO RECEIVE:

- (c) Updated committee membership of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies and its sub-committees for the Academic Year 2007-08, including nominations to other University Committees, paper BFSS.21/06-07 (revised) (copy attached)

2. Minutes

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2007 (copy attached).

3. Matters Arising

(a) Assessment Conventions Working Group (minute 38/06-07 refers)

TO REPORT:

That the Senate, at its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007, considered:

- (i) The Academic Quality and Standards Committee's report on its consideration of proposals from the Assessment Conventions Working Group of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee on the introduction of new University marking scales and degree classification conventions.
- (ii) The Final Report of the Assessment Conventions Working Group of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee and its proposals for the introduction of new University marking scales and degree classification conventions, paper AQSC 78/06-07 (revised 3).
- (iii) The following recommendations of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee:
  - (A) That a new marking scale of seventeen grade points be introduced for the assessment of all undergraduate work at the start of the 2007-08 academic year, as proposed in paper AQSC 78/06-07 (revised 3).
  - (B) That academic departments be consulted on the outline proposals for the introduction of new degree classification conventions and invited to consider current practice in the operation of degree classification conventions.

And resolved:

- (iv) That the Senate was in favour of exploring the possibility of introducing changes to University assessment conventions if these were no worse than current practice in some departments and better than current practice in most departments.

(Following a vote: 33 in favour and 1 abstention)

- (v) That a trial, based upon the Assessment Convention proposals put forward by the Academic Quality and Standards Committee, be piloted in those University departments who expressed a wish to participate in the pilot commencing in the Autumn Term 2007-08 as part of continuing discussions on moves towards the harmonisation of marking for implementation in the academic year 2008-09.

(Following a vote: 30 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions) (Senate minute 94/06-07 refers)

(b) ESRC Research Centres Competition (minute 39/06-07 refers)

TO REPORT:

That following a request from Professor R Higgott, at the May 2007 meeting, to identify potential applicants to the September 2007 ESRC Research Centres Competition, a

proposal from Professor M Salmon (Warwick Business School) was submitted to establish an ESRC-funded research centre entitled 'Centre for Financial Innovation and Public Policy', noting that the outcome of the competition would not be known for some time.

(c) Postgraduate Study Space (minute 51/06-07 refers)

TO REPORT:

- (i) That CELTE and Philosophy had been granted use of S2.82 as a dedicated postgraduate study space, following refurbishment of the room;
- (ii) That the School of Law had reconfigured S1.46 as a dedicated study space for its postgraduate students;
- (iii) That the Department of Politics and International Studies, the Department of Philosophy and the Department of Sociology had been allocated extra rooms in B Block of the Social Studies Building, as dedicated postgraduate study space, following the move of Warwick Business School staff from B Block to the extension of the Scarman Road Building.

(d) University of New South Wales (minute 52/06-07 refers)

TO REPORT:

- (i) That the Board resolved, at its meeting held in May 2007, that it would welcome a briefing document from the University concerning the decision and implications of the University of New South Wales' closure of its Singapore campus for our international strategy;
- (ii) That the Steering Committee, at its meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007, received a paper prepared by the International Office on the impact on the University's Singapore interests of the closure of the University of New South Wales campus in Singapore, paper SC.420/06-07 (copy to follow) (Steering minute 552/06-07 refers).

4. Faculty Research Committee

TO CONSIDER:

A proposal to abolish the Faculty's Research Committee and establish a Research Forum in its place, paper BFSS.1/07-08 (copy attached).

5. Chair's Business

6. Strategic Departmental Review

TO REPORT:

- (a) That the departments in the Faculty of Social Studies which are timetabled to undergo a Strategic Departmental Review during the Academic Year 2007-08 are:
  - (i) School of Law;
  - (ii) Department of Politics and International Studies;
  - (iii) Department of Sociology;
  - (iv) School of Health and Social Studies.

- (b) That the departments which are due to be strategically reviewed during 2008-09 are:
- (i) Warwick Business School;
  - (ii) The Department of Philosophy.

TO RECEIVE:

A paper from the Academic Quality and Standards Committee outlining proposals currently under development to adjust the new Strategic Departmental Review process, paper AQSC 95/06-07 (copy attached).

7. Items for Strategic Discussion

National Student Survey

TO CONSIDER:

A paper (report plus Annexes A-B) regarding the 2006-07 National Student Survey, paper SC.507/06-07 (copy attached).

8. Report from the Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The confirmed minutes of the Faculty Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2007, paper BFSS.2/07-08 (copy attached).

9. Report from the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The confirmed minutes of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007, paper BFSS.3/07-08 (copy to follow).

TO REPORT:

That at the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2006 it was resolved:

- (a) That in order to better process the Committee's business, the Board supported the resolution of the Graduate Studies Committee requesting departments to submit papers before the deadline;
- (b) That late papers should be rejected by the Secretariat;
- (c) That the Secretariat be permitted to reject course and module proposals which were completed incorrectly thus ensuring that the Committee scrutiny stage was primarily devoted to matters of academic principles.

10. Undergraduate and Postgraduate Committee Procedures

TO CONSIDER:

A paper examining some of the procedural difficulties encountered in relation to the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies, together with proposed suggestions for improvement, paper BFSS.4/07-08 (copy attached).

11. Report from the Faculty IT Committee

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from Professor A Neal, Chair of the Faculty IT Committee, regarding the Autumn Term meeting of the Committee.

TO CONSIDER:

Issues members of the Board may wish to raise to the University's Information Policy and Strategy Committee, to which the Faculty IT Committee reports, in advance of the five-year planning round, which are relevant to the operation of IT Services and the University Library.

12. Report from the Faculty Advisory Board

TO RECEIVE:

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty Advisory Board, held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2007 in London, paper BFSS.5/07-08 (copy attached).
- (b) Current membership of the Faculty Advisory Board, paper BFSS.6/07-08 (copy attached), noting that:
  - (i) Academic departments would be requested during the Autumn Term 2007 to nominate additional external members who may be put forward for invitation to join the Faculty Advisory Board.
  - (ii) That there were currently two internal vacancies on the Faculty Advisory Board whilst Professors M Luntley and A Harris were on study leave during the Academic Year 2007-08.

13. Matters Relating to Faculty Research Centres

(a) Directorships of Faculty Research Centres

TO CONSIDER:

Directorships of Faculty research centres within the Faculty of Social Studies, paper BFSS.33/06-07 (revised) (copy attached).

(b) Warwick Centre for Public Economics

TO REPORT:

That at its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007 the Senate considered a proposal from the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies to disestablish the Warwick Centre for Public Economics and resolved that the Warwick Centre for Public Economics be dis-established (Senate minute 102/06-07 (d) (i) refers).

(c) Centre for the Study of Safety and Well-being

TO REPORT:

That at its meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2007 the Senate considered a proposal from the School of Health and Social Studies and the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies to change the constitution of the Centre for the Study of Safety and Well-being and resolved that the proposal for Dr D Chung be appointed as the sole Director of the Centre for the Study of

Safety and Well-being from 1 August 2007 be approved (Senate minute 102/06-07 (d) (ii) refers).

(d) Institute of Governance and Public Management

TO CONSIDER:

Proposed changes to the constitution of the Institute of Governance and Public Management, paper BFSS.7/07-08 (copy to follow).

(e) Law School based Centre for Criminal Justice

TO CONSIDER:

A proposal for establishing a Law School based Centre for Criminal Justice, papers BFSS.8/07-08 and BFSS.9 /07-08 (copies attached), which has been approved by the Law School Research Committee

14. Election of Board Members to the Senate

TO REPORT:

- (a) That there are currently two vacancies on Senate for the period to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010;
- (b) That a By-Election will be conducted in accordance with University Regulation 2.2 (6)-(12), with a view to filling these vacancies;
- (c) That members of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies will be circulated a memo regarding the procedure for filling these vacancies.

15. Mathematics Support Across the University

TO CONSIDER:

A memo from Dr T Hawkes regarding models for providing mathematics support within universities, paper BFSS.10/07-08 (copy attached).

16. Any Other Business

17. Date of the Next Meeting

TO REPORT:

That the date of the next meeting is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 10am in the Council Chamber, University House.