

| UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK | | | |
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| Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences | | | |
| Minutes of the meeting held at 14:00, Thursday 12 November 2020, Microsoft Teams | | | |
| Present | Professor Matthew Nudds | MN | Chair of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Chair BFSS) |
| | Larissa Buranich | LB | Undergraduate student representative, Philosophy |
| | Sofia Dadou | SDa | Undergraduate student representative, Law |
| | Professor Jonathan Forster | JF | HoD, Statistics (Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine representative) |
| | Professor Ruth Hewston | RH | Director, Centre for Lifelong Learning (CLL) |
| | Professor Kate Ireland | KI | Director, Centre for Teacher Education (CTE) |
| | Professor Virinder Kalra | VK | HoD, Sociology |
| | Dr David Lees | DL | Associate Professor, School of Modern Languages and Culture (Faculty Senior Tutor) |
| | Professor Geoff Lindsay | GLi | Director, Centre for Educational Development, Appraisal and Research (CEDAR) (Deputy Chair) |
| | Professor Ben Lockwood | BL | Professor, Economics |
| | Professor Guy Longworth | GLo | Professor, Philosophy |
| | Professor Gabrielle Lynch | GLy | Professor, Politics and International Studies (PAIS) |
| | Professor Noortje Marres | NM | Director, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM) |
| | Dr Troy McConachy | TM | Associate Professor, Applied Linguistics (DAL) |
| | Dr Ines Molinaro | IM | Director, Warwick Foundation Studies (WFS) |
| | Professor Fabienne Peter | FP | HoD, Philosophy |
| | Professor Andrew Sanders | AS | HoD, Law |
| | Dr Gavin Schwartz-Leeper | GSL | Senior Teaching Fellow, Liberal Arts (Faculty of Arts representative) |
| | Professor Emma Smith | ES | HoD, Education Studies (DES) |
| | Professor Jeremy Smith | JS | HoD, Economics |
| | Professor Jacky Swan | JSw | Professor, Warwick Business School (WBS) |
| | Dr Anna Tranter | AT | Teaching Fellow, Warwick Foundation Studies (WFS) |
| | Professor Ema Ushioda | EU | HoD, Applied Linguistics (DAL) |
| | Professor Nick Vaughan-Williams | NVW | HoD, Politics and International Studies (PAIS) |
| | Professor Azrini Wahidin | AW | Professor, Sociology |
| | Dr Naomi Waltham-Smith | NWS | Associate Professor, Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM) (FEC Chair) |
| | Professor Christopher Warhurst | CW | Director, Institute for Employment Research (IER) |
| Attending | Mahfia Watkinson | MW | Assistant Registrar (Teaching and Learning), Education Policy and Quality (Secretary) |
| | Victoria Cox | VC | Senior Programmes Coordinator, Philosophy (Assistant Secretary) |
| | Becca Kirk | BK | Widening Participation Officer, Law (Assistant Secretary) |
| | Dr Jane Bryan | JB | Reader, School of Law (Faculty Student Engagement Coordinator) |
| | Sarah Duggan | SDu | Director of Faculty Administration (Social Sciences) |
| | Professor Francesco Squintani | FS | Professor, Economics (item 007) |
| | Robin Green | RG | University Librarian, Library (item 009) |
| | Carole Harris | CHa | Assistant Director R&IS (Systems & Strategic Projects) (items 007 and 008) |

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| | Karen Jackson | KJ | Academic Support Manager, Library |
| | Dr Jennie Mills | JM | Senior Academic Fellow, Academic Development Centre (ADC) |
| Ref | Item | | |
| 001 | <p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Yvonne Budden (Library), Richard Hastings (CEDAR), Kate Ireland (CTE), Andy Lockett (WBS), Lynne Pettinger (Sociology), Ross Ritchie (WBS), Kiruthika Thangavel (Student Representative), Charlotte Van Herwijnen (Student Representative), Paul Warmington (DES) and Andrew Williams (Law).</p> | | |
| 002 | <p>Declarations of Interest Members of the Board were reminded to declare any conflicts of interest at the relevant part of the meeting.</p> | | |
| 003 | <p>Membership and Terms of Reference The Board received and approved the Terms of Reference (paper 003.BFSS.20-21). It was requested that in future a sentence outlining how membership is derived be included in future versions.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed new academic members of the Board: Paul Warmington (DES), Ruth Hewston (CLL) and Gabrielle Lynch (PAIS) and newly co-opted members Guy Longworth (Philosophy), Azrini Wahidin (Sociology) and Jacky Swan (WBS). The Chair also welcomed new student members: Sofia Dadou, Larissa Buranich, Charlotte Van Herwijnen and Kiruthika Thangavel.</p> <p>It was further reported that Naomi Waltham-Smith had commenced their new term as Chair of the Faculty Education Committee. The Board wished to record its grateful thanks to Christopher Bisping, the former FEC Chair, for their work and noted that they had recently moved into the role of Academic Director for Post Graduate Taught (PGT) within the Education Executive. The Chair welcomed Naomi to their new role.</p> <p>The Chair noted that as the Board's next meeting would take place in January, it would not have opportunity to thank departing members whose terms were scheduled to end in December 2020. According, the Chair and the Board wished to record its grateful thanks to Fabienne Peter, who would be standing down as the Head of the Philosophy Department in December 2020 and to, Geoff Lindsay who would also be standing down as Director of CEDAR and Deputy Chair to the Board. The new Head of Philosophy will be Guy Longworth and the new Director of CEDAR will be Richard Hastings. Members were advised that updates to its membership would be reflected at its January meeting.</p> <p>ACTION That future membership updates include an explanation for how memberships are determined and requested to assist members when receiving papers.</p> | | |
| 004 | <p>Minutes of the last meeting held on 7 November 2019 The minutes of the Board's last meeting held on 7 November 2019 were received and approved.</p> | | |
| 005 | <p>Matters arising from meeting held on 7 November 2019 It was reported that the proposal to change the name of two Centres in the Faculty to the title of Department had been approved by the Senate and formally changed. The change was effective from August 2020 and both departments were to be recognised as the Department of Applied Linguistics and the Department of Education Studies.</p> <p>It was also reported that Jeremy Smith had stepped down as Chair of the Faculty IT Committee. Members noted that the Committee had been dissolved but may be reconstituted in the future, subject to the outcomes of the University's Professional Services Group Review which may affect its function.</p> | | |
| Chair's Update | | | |

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| 006 | <p>Chair’s Business and Actions</p> <p>Board members were reminded that it was good practice to include Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) Representatives in Departmental Teaching and Learning Committees.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the Board had not met since November 2019. This was due to the meeting in January 2020 being conducted by email due to a lack of substantial business and, cancellation of its June 2020 meeting due to the impact of the Coronavirus and the necessity to approve decisions outside of the Board and EFSS in response to the rapidly evolving policy landscape.</p> <p>As the first meeting of the academic year, the Chair noted item 010 and invited members to consider whether there might be any priorities that members wished to reflect for its ongoing business during the year. It was suggested that in future meetings, the Board should reflect strategic items centred on education. Whilst the Board noted that it’s sub-committee, the Faculty Education Committee, would support the enhancement of faculty education, its membership did not normally include Heads of Department and it was agreed that a Faculty Board perspective should inform EFSS. This proposal was welcomed by NWS, the new Chair of EFSS. NM also suggested that a standing strategic item on research should be included for similar reasons.</p> <p>Decision: That strategic items on Education and Research should be included as standing items for the Faculty Board.</p> |
| Main Items | |
| 007 | <p>Proposal to establish a new departmental research centre - Quantitative and Analytical Political Economy Research Centre</p> <p>The Board received the proposal to establish the Quantitative and Analytical Political Economy Research Centre (papers 007a-b.BFSS.20-21) and welcomed FS and CHa.</p> <p>It was reported that the proposal to establish a formal research centre stemmed from an existing informal group in which its members routinely published in world leading journals. Since 2012, the group had held a weekly seminar with the London School of Economics and since 2013, had held an annual conference jointly organised with Quantitative and Analytical Political Science (QAPS). The proposal sought to consolidate its position and recognise its output as a research centre, elevating recognition beyond QAPE academics and boosting Warwick’s International University and Subject rankings. It was noted that recognition as a formal research centre would help with funding applications.</p> <p>It was reported that the proposal for a Category 3 Research Centre would sit within the Department of Economics but that is worked jointly with the Department of Politics and International Studies (PAIS) and the Warwick Business School (WBS). In noting its collaborative arrangements with PAIS and WBS, the proposed Management Committee drew more heavily from Economics. NVW confirmed that PAIS were content with this arrangement, noting the inclusion of a PAIS representative. JSw suggested FS may wish to contact members in the WBS Finance Group, as the Centre’s works may be of interest and relevance to its portfolio.</p> <p>Decision: The Board approved the proposal to establish a Quantitative and Analytical Political Economy Research Centre.</p> |
| 008 | <p>University Research Centres – Triennial Review 2020/21</p> <p>CHa presented the triennial reviews of University Research Centres (papers 008a.BFSS.20-21 and 008b.BFSS.20-21). It was noted that it would be helpful for Research Centres based outside of the Faculty of Social Sciences to include a brief outline of the aim of the Research Centre.</p> <p>Decisions: The Board made the following recommendations to Research Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The continuation of the following Research Centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Centre for Operational Policing Research (COPR); ii) Connecting Research on Employment and Work (CREW); |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Criminal Justice Centre (CJC); iv) Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR); v) Centre for Caribbean Studies; vi) Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology (CMCB); vii) Warwick Centre for Applied Health Research and Delivery (W-CAHRD). <p>b) That the following Research Centres be invited to provide clarification to the Research Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Centre for Law Governance and Regulation of the Global Economy (GLOBE) – the Board noted that the policy brief series had become less frequent and that the Centre had switched to briefing notes but provided no explanation for its rationale. Clarification would be welcome. ii) Centre for Research in Economic Theory and Applications (CRETA) – the Board requested further information regarding its research funding goals to assist with its strategic direction. <p>c) The discontinuation of the Warwick Industrial Biotechnology and Biorefining (WIBB) Research Centre.</p> |
| 009 | <p>Consultation on the Wellcome Trust Revised Open Access Policy - Implementing the University of Warwick Principles for Evaluation of Research</p> <p>The Board received an update from RG on the implementation of the Wellcome Trust’s Revised Open Access Policy, including the implementation of the University of Warwick Principles for Evaluation of Research (paper 010.BFSS.20-21).</p> <p>It was reported that the Wellcome Trust’s revised Open Access policy came into force from 01 January 2021 and, applied to all articles submitted on or after that date. There was no change regarding monographs and book chapters. Key updates included that institutions must retain copyrights for their articles with no embargo period. The UKRI revised policy was expected to be published in the second quarter of 2021, and that it was likely to be similar to the Wellcome Trust’s policy. It was further noted that the Leiden Manifesto had been approved by all Faculty Boards and the University Executive Board (UEB).</p> <p>NM noted that the policy regarding book chapters and monographs was of particular relevance to the Faculty to ensure opportunities to publish did not become restrictive. CW raised concern that the policy encouraged publication of data potentially before the research had fully concluded which could affect its future article outputs. This would be problematic for Social Sciences disciplines, in which it was common to release articles over a series of years. It was also noted that the Department’s role in the implementation of the policy was unclear, with many aspects covered in the proposal being covered by other teams within the University, such as for example by HR for recruitment and promotions.</p> <p>It was reported that a full plan for implementation would be completed in the New Year and proposals would be returned to the Faculty Board.</p> |
| 010 | <p>Education Strategy Priorities in 2020-21</p> <p>The Board received and noted a summary of the Education Executive’s education priorities for 2020-21 (paper 011.BFS.20-21). The Chair invited comments on any priorities which the Board wished to discuss.</p> <p>SD reported that the Students’ Union (SU) was undertaking a student vote on a motion that the SU should support the UCU’s call for all teaching to move online. SD queried whether the outcome of this vote would affect the institutional commitment to deliver some on-campus teaching, as part of its blended learning approach. The Chair advised that the outcome of the vote would be noted but that the University was committed to delivering a blended approach for the academic year.</p> |

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| | <p>AW and GL welcomed Education Executive's priority to enable high quality blended learning as a priority for the academic year. AW noted that further information about how staff and students were managing blended learning, including their experience of the new platforms being used, would enhance institutional delivery. GLy raised concerns that the blended learning approach was adding to staff workloads, particularly as students shifted between online and on-campus delivery groups due to the need to self-isolate, an issue which was compounded by the lack of a technical solution to support departments. VK noted that any decisions about blended learning needed to be made with consideration to the impact on student's wellbeing, as well as pedagogic concerns. NVW welcomed the areas of focus but noted that there should be ongoing engagement between Departments and the Education Executive regarding its developments.</p> |
| 011 | <p>Faculty update on Athena Swan SD provided the Board with an update on current Social Sciences Departmental Athena Swan application statuses.</p> <p>It was reported that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> WBS held a Silver award which was due for renewal in April 2022. CEDAR held a Bronze award and would be applying for a silver award in November 2020. CTE had applied for a silver award. Sociology, Philosophy, PAIS, IER and Law held Bronze awards which would be due for renewal between April 2021 – November 2022. WFS planned to apply for a Bronze award in November 2020. DES and Economics planned to apply for a Bronze award in April 2021. CLL, DAL and CIM planned to submit applications, dates for which were yet to be confirmed. <p>The Chair requested that an update of progress against action plans be provided at the Board's next meeting.</p> <p>Action: SD to provide an update on Athena Swan applications at the January meeting of the Board.</p> |
| <p>Items below this line were received/and or approved without discussion</p> | |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Subsidiary and Sub-Committee Reports</p> | |
| 013 | <p>Faculty Education Committee: unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2020. The Board received the unconfirmed minutes of EFSS held on 28 October 2020 (paper 013.BFSS.20-21). Whilst the Board would not ordinarily discuss minutes which are received below the line, the Chair invited the EFSS Chair to update members on EFSS business.</p> <p>NWS reported that much of the focus at the first meeting of EFSS had been centred on the immediate impact of changes to teaching, learning and assessment delivery necessitated by the ongoing restrictions of the Coronavirus. Members had particularly reported concerns regarding technological difficulties (similarly noted by Board members earlier) as well as the impact on staff workloads. It was reported that EFSS was in the process of developing an initiative to facilitate a more discursive approach to feedback on blended learning, which was intended to involve both staff and students. Further it was reported that EFSS had discussed its strategic priorities for the year and provisionally agreed the following areas: Academic Support (including engagement with UG research); Lessons from blended learning; Links with other University activities; Student inclusions and empowerment and Employability.</p> <p>It was also noted that whilst the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus restrictions would remain a focus for the Committee, members were committed to maintaining focus on other priorities including decolonising the curriculum, which would be a topic for discussion at the next EFSS Director of Education luncheons.</p> |

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| | NWS encouraged Board members to contact them with educational issues to support communication between the Board and EFSS. | |
| Senate Committee Minutes and Reports | | |
| 015 | Board of Graduate Studies Minutes | http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/bgs/minutes/ |
| 016 | Partnerships Committee Minutes | https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/partnerships/minutes/ |
| 017 | Academic Quality and Standards Committee Minutes | http://warwick.ac.uk/committees/aqsc/minutes/ |
| 018 | University Education Committee Minutes | https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/ec/minutes/ |
| 019 | Student Learning Experience and Engagement Committee Minutes | https://warwick.ac.uk/committees/sleec/minutes/ |
| Other | | |
| 020 | <p>Any other business No other business was raised.</p> <p>Members were reminded of future meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences for the remainder of 2020/21, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 28 January 2021, 14.00-16.00, Senate House Council Chamber or via Teams (tbc). • Thursday 20 May 2021, 14.00-16.00, Senate House Council Chamber or via Teams (tbc). <p>Members were invited to contact the Secretary at least three weeks in advance of the respective meetings to propose agenda items to facilitate Chair approval. Papers for the Board are required at least two weeks in advance of the meeting to facilitate paper production and circulation.</p> | |
| Close 16:00 | | |
| Next meeting: 14.00, 28 January 2020, Microsoft Teams | | |

| DECISIONS AND ACTIONS | | |
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| ITEM | DECISION/ACTION | LEAD AND DUE DATE |
| 003 | Action: That future membership updates include an explanation for how memberships are determined and requested to assist members when receiving papers. | Board Secretariat |
| 006 | Decision: That strategic items on Education and Research should be included as standing items for the Faculty Board. | n/a |
| 007 | Decision: The Board approved the proposal to establish a Quantitative and Analytical Political Economy Research Centre. | n/a |
| 008 | <p>Decisions: The Board made the following recommendations to Research Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The continuation of the following Research Centres: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Centre for Operational Policing Research (COPR); ii) Connecting Research on Employment and Work (CREW); iii) Criminal Justice Centre (CJC); iv) Centre for the Study of Globalisation and Regionalisation (CSGR); v) Centre for Caribbean Studies; vi) Centre for Mechanochemical Cell Biology (CMCB); vii) Warwick Centre for Applied Health Research and Delivery (W-CAHRD). b) That the following Research Centres be invited to provide clarification to the Research Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Centre for Law Governance and Regulation of the Global Economy (GLOBE) – the Board noted that the policy brief series had become less frequent and that the Centre had switched to briefing notes but provided no explanation for its rationale. Clarification would be welcome. ii) Centre for Research in Economic Theory and Applications (CRETA) – the Board requested further information regarding its research funding goals to assist with its strategic direction. c) The discontinuation of the Warwick Industrial Biotechnology and Biorefining (WIBB) Research Centre. | |
| 011 | Action: SD to provide an update on Athena Swan applications at the January meeting of the Board. | SD, January 2021 |