



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Council Chamber
Date Wednesday 21 April 2010 at 2.15pm

Present Professor D M Bird Professor G A McCusker
Dr I S Blagbrough Dr W M Megill
Professor G R Burton Dr E O'Neill
Dr B Delgado-Charro Dr A J Power
Professor J J Faraway Professor G J Price
Dr M V Hejmadi Dr I Walker
Dr R Hooley Professor I H Williams
Dr A C Jeffries Professor P J Willis
Professor C Jennison (Chair) Dr D Wolverson
Dr I V Kamotski Dr B Yalabik
Professor J C Knight

Mrs E F Bird (Secretary)

Apologies for absence were received from:

Mr J A Crawshaw (student representative) Mr A Pool (student representative)
Dr F R Laughton Professor R M Tyrrell
Mr T Major (student representative) Dr C Wilson

4953 MINUTES

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2010 (papers 97/98).

4954 MATTERS ARISING

M4932 Individual Mitigating Circumstances

The Board noted a discussion at the meeting of the Faculty Teaching & Quality Committee on 24 March 2010.

Members of the Board noted that some IMCs Panels at the end of Semester 1 had included cross-departmental membership. This had proved to be useful in ensuring fairness and equity of treatment. Professor Jennison encouraged departments to make more use of cross-departmental membership in future IMCs Panels.

The Board noted that there would be a second feedback session after the end of Semester 2 to review the practices and policies across the Faculty.

M4937 Fitness to Practise policy

The Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (RPSGB) required all Schools of Pharmacy to introduce a new policy from August 2010, which judged whether or not MPharm students were fit to practice as registered pharmacists.

Following extensive consultation, this policy was considered by Senate on 14 April 2010. Discussion at Senate had focussed on the lack of an alternative academic award to the MPharm should a student be judged not 'fit to practice' as a registered pharmacist. In addition, there were questions raised as to whether or not the ultimate sanction, that of expulsion, should be from the MPharm programme, rather than the University.

It was agreed that a small number of elements in the policy would be re-drafted for further consideration by Senate in June 2010.

Senate

4955 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

Professor Jennison drew attention to the forthcoming Board of Studies' elections. As in 2009, all members of Academic Assembly in the Faculty would be approached by email by the Office of the Secretariat about nominations for membership of the Board for membership from the beginning of the next academic session.

On behalf of the Board, Professor Jennison congratulated the following students in the Faculty for the 2010 Arts Award Prizes. These awards were approved by Senate on 14 April 2010

- Kirsty Goodman, Dept of Biology and Biochemistry, Santander Prize for Creative Leadership
- Ann Howell, BSc (Hons) Physics: Marjorie VandeLinde Prize
- David Kennaway, Dept of Computer Science, Santander Prize for Excellence in Media Production
- Simon King, BSc(Hons) Mathematics: Peter Redfern Prize for Theatre
- Martin Phillips BSc (Hons) Computer Science: Quayle Prize for Music and the Santander Prize for Excellence in Production.

4956 FACULTY EXECUTIVE

The Board received the notes of the meeting held on 9 February 2010 and 24 March 2010 (paper 100/101).

Professor Jennison drew attention to the Graduate School Fee Scholarships. Most of these awards had now been offered to potential students. There would be one more round of allocations. Some Postgraduate Taught Fee Scholarships were also included in the allocations.

The Board acknowledged that these Fee Scholarships would need to be confirmed as a valuable recruitment tool before there could be consideration of a further round of such scholarships. In addition, it was worth noting that these

students also would contribute positively to the research output of disciplines in the Faculty.

The Graduate School might need to consider creative ways of supporting overseas students who would not be eligible for work permits to support their studies. In addition, the inclusion of a bench fee, or training support fee, should be carefully, and transparently, considered as part of an overall package for postgraduate research students.

One member of the Board suggested that consideration should be given to the provision of fee scholarships specifically for Chinese University students. This would replicate a recruitment strategy that was undertaken by some peer Universities. There might also be opportunities to utilise growing relationships with particular Chinese Universities.

4957 FACULTY RESEARCH STUDENTS COMMITTEE

The Board received the minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2010 (paper 102).

4958 FACULTY TEACHING & QUALITY COMMITTEE

The Board received the minutes of the meetings held on 17 February 2010 and 24 March 2010 (papers 103/104).

The Board also noted summaries of all of the 2008-09 annual monitoring reports for undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes in the Faculty (papers 104a/b).

The FT&QC wished to draw attention to delays in students at risk seeing a Student Counsellor (paper 104c). The Head of Student Services had responded that the assessment process tried to ensure that higher risk students were seen immediately, but Student Services were not able to avoid some students having to wait longer than was ideal to see a counsellor. Directors of Studies and other staff within academic departments were always able to seek advice from the Student Health and Well-Being Manager, about how to manage such situations and delays.

Student Services had recently managed to increase the number of hours worked by the Student Mental Health Worker by reallocating resources from elsewhere in Student Services. In addition Student Services would be reviewing their options for strengthening the counselling team further. The need to do so was being highlighted through the annual planning process.

4959 UNIT AND PROGRAMME CHANGES

The Board noted some unit and programme changes that had been approved by the Chair of the Faculty Teaching & Quality Committee, on behalf of the Board of Studies (papers 105/106).

4960 DEPARTMENT MEETINGS

The Board received minutes from departmental meetings (paper 108a/b)).

Department of Computer Science

17 December 2009

11 March 2010

Department of Physics

10 February 2010

17 March 2010.

Meetings in 2009-10

Date	Day	Time	Room
19 May 2010	Wednesday	2.15 pm	3 West 4.7
29 June 2010 (Final Year results)	Tuesday	9.30 am	Council Chamber
9 July 2010 (Progression results)	Friday	9.30 am	Council Chamber
21 September 2010 (Supplementary results)	Tuesday	2.15 pm	Council Chamber