5678  MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2013 (Paper 90).
MATTERS ARISING

M5654 STUDENT INTAKE NUMBERS AS AT 30.09.2013

The Board noted that the Dean was currently liaising with Lee Hennessy with a view to making it possible to obtain real time data on UCAS A level tariff intakes during confirmation and clearing.

CHAIR’S BUSINESS

Changes approved to UG NFAAR

The Board noted that, following a review of the UG NFAAR, Senate had approved (on 4 December) some substantial changes to the UG NFAAR. These changes will be rolled out for new entrants from 2014/15; the only changes to take effect immediately will be those that do not disadvantage current students. The changes include reducing the amount of failure condonable in the final year at Honours level from 30 to 18 credits, the abolition of Ordinary Degrees (of which some exist within the Faculty) and the creation instead of exit awards in the form of Cert/Dip HE for all programmes. The Board noted that it is possible to apply for exemptions to these revised regulations, and that this may be an option explored by the Department of Mathematical Sciences. The Board noted that an institutional timetable for the application of exemptions had not yet been set.

The Board noted that consultation for the PGT NFAAR Review, led by Professor Michael Mayer, School of Management, had just started; the deadline for feedback is 3rd February. The Board agreed that the Faculty may wish to highlight for review the current requirement for students to achieve 70% or above in both taught and research elements in order to achieve a Distinction overall.

Undergraduate applications

The Board noted that Faculty undergraduate applications have increased by 11% this year, while the average across the sector has decreased. Overall, recruitment is pleasing both within the Faculty and across the institution; it is expected that the increased recruitment targets will be met. The Board noted in particular that to date the new BSc (Hons) Biomedical Sciences degrees have attracted 460 Home and EU applications, and 62 overseas applications.