MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014 (Paper 176) and there were no matters arising.
CHAIR’S BUSINESS

The Chair brought to the attention of the Board the following matters arising from the meeting of Senate on 9 April 2014:

1. Research data policy: Every academic member of staff is to become a ‘data steward’. HoDs are to raise awareness of this at Departmental meetings with a view to all academic members of staff moving towards compliance.

2. Award thresholds for Master’s degrees with Merit and Distinction: NFAAR-PGT is to be amended so that a Distinction will be awarded to students who have an Overall Programme Average (OPA) of at least 70%, a Dissertation/Project Average (DPA) of at least 70% and a Taught Stage Average (TSA) of at least 60% (previously 70%). A Merit will be awarded to students who have an OPA of at least 60%, a DPA of at least 60% and a TSA of at least 50% (previously 60%). These changes will come into effect for Master’s degree awards made on or after 1 August 2014.

3. Anonymous marking: Senate approved the principle of anonymous marking of all summative assessment, where practical, from 1 August 2014.

4. Assessment practices: In order to meet the needs of a more diverse student body, a move is encouraged towards having fewer unseen examinations, particularly in Semester 1, with more holistic assessments introduced at the end of the year. The Board noted that this is in line with many other HEIs which do not have summative assessment periods twice a year. The Board also noted a recent ULTQC discussion on reviewing the current limit on the volume of credit that can form year-long units.

5. MOOCs: Dr M Hejmadi was congratulated for developing the ‘Inside Cancer’ MOOC which achieved a 35% completion rate (as opposed to the average 5% completion rate) and high levels of participant satisfaction.