



Meeting **BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE**
Place Council Chamber
Date Wednesday 16 April 2014 at 14:15

Present	Professor D M Bird Mr D J Bence Professor S J Bending Mr S Burfiend Dr A D Burrows Dr J Doughty Dr M A Freitag Mr A Hayes Professor R S G Jones Professor E O'Neill Dr D A Taylor Professor S G Ward Professor S Wonnacott	Dean of Science (Chair) School of Management Head of Department of Physics Students' Union (SU) Sabbatical Officer (Activities) Department of Chemistry Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Mathematical Sciences Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), Department of Computer Science Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Head of Department of Computer Science Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology (alternate for Professor S G Ward) Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology Associate Dean (Graduate Studies)
In attendance	Mrs M Hallett Ms A L Harper	Faculty of Science (Secretary) Faculty of Science (Observer)
Apologies	Professor C Bowen Ms S Chordekar Dr H R Corradi Ms E Craddock Professor M G Davidson Professor I G Graham Professor J C Knight Dr G Mathlin Miss R McMahan Dr J Power Dr S J Roser Dr H Schwetlick Professor R J Scott Dr N B J Vollaard Ms M Woodward	Faculty of Engineering and Design Postgraduate taught student representative Department of Biology and Biochemistry Postgraduate research student representative Head of Department of Chemistry Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences Associate Dean (Research) Department of Physics Department of Computer Science (undergraduate student representative) Department of Computer Science Chair of the Natural Sciences Programmes Committee Department of Mathematical Sciences Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Learning Partnerships Office

5731 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

ACTION

The Board approved the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014 (Paper 176) and there were no matters arising.

5732 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.