Meeting BOARD OF STUDIES FOR THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE
Place 1 South 0.01
Date Wednesday 18 November 2015 at 14:15

Present
Professor D M Bird Dean of Science (Chair)
Professor S J Bending Head of Department of Physics
Dr J Bultitude Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Dr A D Burrows Department of Chemistry
Dr H R Corradi Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Professor C Frost Head of Department of Chemistry
Dr A Hayes Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), Department of Computer Science
Professor C Jennison Head of Department of Mathematical Sciences
Professor R S G Jones Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Dr G Mathlin Department of Physics
Miss R McMahon Undergraduate student representative
Dr P Mitchell Natural Sciences (alternate for Dr S J Roser)
Dr J Power Department of Computer Science
Dr D A Taylor Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Miss J Walsh PGR student representative
Professor C Wilson Associate Dean (Research)
Professor S Wonnacott Associate Dean (Graduate Studies)
Miss L Woodcock Students' Union (SU) Sabbatical Officer (Education)

In attendance
Mrs M Hallett Faculty of Science (Secretary)
Ms A L Harper Faculty of Science (Observer)

Apologies
Dr F Bisset Learning Partnerships Office
Professor C Bowen Faculty of Engineering and Design
Professor F Burstall Department of Mathematical Sciences
Dr J Doughty Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Dr J Nordstrom Department of Mathematical Sciences
Professor E O’Neill Head of Department of Computer Science
Dr S J Roser Head of Natural Sciences
Professor R J Scott Head of Department of Biology and Biochemistry
Professor S G Scott Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Dr Z Yalabik School of Management

6062 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
The Board approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board held on 7 October 2015 (Paper 68) and there were no matters arising.

6063 CHAIR’S BUSINESS
The Chair reported the following:
   i) There had been problems with the fume cupboard system in 1 South which had
led to the system having to be shut down for 12 days. This could have affected adversely Chemistry PhD students and some undergraduate MChem students undertaking Year 4 research projects. The Department of Chemistry had undertaken appropriate measures to mitigate effects of the shut down on student research. The Head of Department reported that he had communicated directly with undergraduate students regarding the impact of the shut down and the MChem research project Unit Convenor had contacted all students undertaking the unit, including Natural Sciences students.

The Chair explained that evidence had proven that, under certain weather conditions, it was possible for fume cupboard extracts leaving the building via chimneys to be ventilated back in to the building through air intakes. The fume cupboard system was therefore shut down and tests were carried out which proved that the fume extract and air intake systems were working properly. During the shut down period, chemicals were deliberately vented through the fume cupboard system and qualitative measurements from air quality monitoring over a week showed no signs of further recirculation. The Chair commented that similar situations had been experienced by other universities in the past. The Chair reported that appropriate measures had been put in place to safeguard the health and safety of staff and students, while ensuring that work and research could be maintained.

ii) The timing of ‘Let’s Talk’ (an opportunity to put questions to the Vice-Chancellor and to hear an update on the latest developments affecting the University) was unfortunate since it had coincided with Faculty Boards of Studies.