



Meeting **FACULTY RESEARCH STUDENTS' COMMITTEE**  
Place **Wessex House Council Chamber**  
Date and Time **12.30 – 2.00pm Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Present	Prof Sue Wonnacott Dr James Doughty Dr Jim Laird Dr Adrian Hill Dr Sergey Gordeev	Chair Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Computer Science Department of Maths Department of Physics
In attendance	Miss Ceri Dibble Ms Jodie Walsh Mr Matthew Humberstone	Programmes Officer PGR Student Rep (Physics) Students' Union Officer
Apologies	Dr Simon Lewis Dr Lorenzo Caggiano Mr Simon Gane Dr Caroline McMurray	Department of Chemistry Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology Graduate School Manager Quality Enhancement Officer, LTEO

		<b>Action</b>
<b>1068</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> SW noted apologies from Simon Lewis, Lorenzo Caggiano, Simon Gane and Caroline McMurray and informed the members of a delayed arrival from James Doughty.	
<b>1069</b>	<b>MINUTES</b> Minutes of the meeting held on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2016 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
<b>1070</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> 1056: The Annual Monitoring Reports from all departments were submitted to and discussed at the last URSC meeting in February. There was nothing of note to feed back to the committee. 1057: The final of the Three Minute Thesis event is due to take place on Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March at the Bath Brewhouse with two representatives from the faculty taking part. 1058: All PRES action plans have now been received. SW thanked all DoS. CD presented data from the 12/13 academic year up to the present month on how many extensions were granted for each department. There is no clear pattern and it is not clear yet if this is affecting submission rates.	
<b>1071</b>	<b>CHAIR'S BUSINESS</b> <u>Doctoral College Update:</u> Sue Wonnacott (SW) informed the committee of the current position, communicated at the HoDs and Ads meeting on Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March. Plans to set up a Doctoral College are	

	<p>going ahead. Jonathan Knight will be appointing a project manager internally to look at all the different options, models and structures of doctoral colleges. A board with representatives from all relevant parties will also be appointed. There is currently no information on a timeline for this project. There was also a question as to who would lead the doctoral college. It is likely that they will be appointed below the PVC level. Matt Humberstone (MH) was not aware of any further developments in this project.</p> <p><u>Research Afternoon:</u> This is due to be held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June. SW noted that there is unfortunately a clash with a Maths event on the same day. Six PGR speakers have been recruited, one from each department, to give talks and there will be posters and lightning talks. Prof Carole Mundell from the Astrophysics group will also give a research talk. The event will be advertised from next week and SW asked that all DoS encourage students to attend and participate.</p> <p><u>Research Authorship (PAPER 117)</u> Neil Bannister would like feedback on this document by Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March. The committee found the guidelines to be uncontroversial. SW suggested the document could include a comment on responsibility for data in research papers. Sergey Gordeev (SG) suggested it would be good to publish these guidelines on the web once they are agreed. MH commented that the School of Management raised some issues with the paper as they have different practices but he is not sure if these will affect the Science departments in the same way. Jodi Walsh (JW) was not sure if these guidelines are particularly useful for existing research students but could provide some useful guidance for new researchers.</p> <p><u>PRES Action Plan Update: tabled document</u> All Department plans have been submitted to URSC and a faculty plan has also been drawn up and submitted. A good discussion was had at the last faculty SSLC with the student reps and their comments were fed back to their own departments. SW and Simon Gane compiled the Faculty plan after the meeting, based on the main issues highlighted in each department plan, indicating actions to address these issues where feasible. Some actions have already been put in place, e.g. the Graduate School making induction packs for mid-year starters. JW commented that it is good that the plan features timelines and defined targets as opposed to just discussing them. The plans will be reviewed against their milestones by URSC in October.</p> <p><u>LTEO Teaching Course:</u> SW met with Neil Bannister on 15<sup>th</sup> February to discuss this course following concerns about its suitability raised at the previous FRSC, and in PRES responses. SW was advised that Giles Martin, the Bath Course director, is the contact for this as the course is delivered by Staff Development so Neil Bannister has no control over the content. Giles Martin has been working with individual departments to make improvements and he will attend a future Faculty SSLC to speak to the student reps about it. All faculties and departments have different requirements and it is not currently clear how the course meets all subject-specific needs. Adrian Hill (AH) thought it would be useful for the Maths trainers to attend as well, as tutoring is currently being reviewed in the department. Students at Bath are not encouraged to take part in the Bath Course. JW stated that support for students who teach is a top 10 Students' Union issue. SW would like to know what each department does: each DoS will be sent an email requesting details (the email should be forwarded to the people responsible for training in the department if more appropriate). They should then feed back to SW.</p>	SW
1072	<p><b>ALTERNATIVE THESIS FORMAT (PAPER 118)</b> SW briefly presented the document in the absence of Caroline McMurray. AH stated that the Maths research committee had discussed the proposal and they voted against it but would accept its introduction if certain changes are made (i.e. to follow the Dutch maths model). SG thinks it's generally a useful idea but the Physics department are unsure as to how this would work regarding external examiners. Jim Laird (JL) said that there were differing opinions in Computer Science but that students are showing an interest in this format.</p>	

	<p>James Doughty (JD) thinks that the feeling in Biology is that it would be a positive move to introduce this as an option.</p> <p>SW and CD will compile the responses to the questions raised in the document and forward them to Caroline McMurray, copied to the committee</p>	<b>SW/CD</b>
<b>1073</b>	<p><b>CONFIRMATION VIVA GUIDANCE (PAPER 119)</b></p> <p>SW and the Graduate School formulated this document in response to the inconsistencies observed in confirmation reports that come to FRSC for approval. The main issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- confirmation is passed but the examiners still require some or all of the report to be a rewritten report, so there is no record of this happening, or completing the paperwork is delayed while waiting a long time for an amended report. Additionally, supervisor comments sometimes do not address the feedback given by the examiners.</li> </ul> <p>Overall the committee were happy with the guidelines, except for some minor adjustments. CD to circulate to DoS once these have been made.</p>	<b>CD</b>
<b>1074</b>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>MH informed the committee that the new SU PG Officer has been elected. Adam Kearns is an MSc student from Humanities.</p> <p>The next meeting is on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016</p> <p>END</p>	