



Meeting **FACULTY RESEARCH STUDENTS' COMMITTEE**  
Place **Wessex House Council Chamber**  
Date and Time **12.30 – 2.00pm, Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Present	Professor S Wonnacott (Chair) Dr L Caggiano Dr R James Dr J Laird Dr J Doughy Dr S Lewis Mr J Kenny	Associate Dean (Graduate Studies) Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology Department of Physics Department of Computer Science Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Chemistry Students' Union Officer
In attendance	Mr S Gane Dr Caroline McMurray Ms Ceri Dibble	Graduate School Manager Learning & Teaching Enhancement Office PG Programmes Officer (from 1 <sup>st</sup> June)
Apologies	Dr A Hill	Department of Mathematical Sciences

		<b>Action</b>
<b>969</b>	<b>Welcome and introductions</b> Dr Caroline McMurray and Ms Ceri Dibble were welcomed to the meeting.	
<b>970</b>	<b>MINUTES</b> Minutes of the meeting held on 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2015 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	
<b>971</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M950: Directors of Study confirmed that they had not received the link on how to register for Business Objects, nor had they seen any information on the correct report to run for information on the Academic Integrity Test. Simon Gane (SG) agreed to send them this information.</li> <li>• M951: Information on the RIS sessions on potential sources of funding had been circulated.</li> </ul>	SG
<b>972</b>	<b>CHAIR'S BUSINESS</b>  <b>PRES</b> Sue Wonnacott (SW) provided the Committee with an update on departmental response rates. She reminded colleagues that the closing date was 14 <sup>th</sup> May (midnight) and suggested that they might want to send out reminders to PGR students 2-3 days before the deadline.  <b>Update on MRC bid</b> SW explained that Bath was an associate partner in this GW4 bid, which was led by Cardiff University. If successful Bath stands to gain 0.5 studentship per year, although it is hoped that this will be matched by a University contribution (yet to be confirmed). Amanda Mackenzie is the Bath lead and the deadline for submission of the bid is in June.	



976	<p><b>GRADUATE SCHOOL STAFFING UPDATE</b></p> <p>SG gave an update to the Committee on administrative staffing changes in the Graduate School. Amy Stallard has left and is not being replaced as she was maternity cover for Liz Morris in Pharmacy &amp; Pharmacology. Catrin Yeomans and Emma Lawrence, the two deputy Graduate School Managers, have also both left the Graduate School team. A Grade 6 Full-Time post was advertised to replace these staff members and Ceri Dibble (current PG Administrator) has been appointed to that post. Ceri will be replaced in due course. An additional 2 year fixed-term administrative post has been approved but will only be fully approved by the VC's office after the election. Once the timings for appointing to this post are clearer SG will decide what to do with the residue of funds left from Catrin and Emma's departure.</p>	
977	<p><b>MINUTES FROM URSC MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015</b></p> <p>The Committee noted the minutes from this meeting.</p>	
978	<p><b>ALTERNATIVE FORMAT DOCTORAL THESIS</b></p> <p>Caroline McMurray (CM) explained the background to the consultation on the proposal to permit PGR students to submit a portfolio as an alternative to the traditional thesis format, and she reminded Committee members that the consultation ended on Friday 8 May. Committee members responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dick James (RJ) felt that it was obvious that research students should have a choice as to the format of what they submit, as long as a portfolio is accompanied by a commentary. He felt that identifying that you will have publishable material at the confirmation stage was unrealistic as some may not know till much later.</li> <li>• Lorenzo Caggiano (LC) supported the proposed change and said that it may help students who suffer illness during their PhD, if they have papers that could be submitted in lieu of a traditional thesis. LC agreed to forward responses he had received from colleagues to CM.</li> <li>• James Doughty (JD) said that he had canvassed academic colleagues in Biology &amp; Biochemistry and had received very positive responses. He, too, felt that the decision to submit a portfolio could not be made early on as it would evolve over the course of the PhD. He agreed to forward the email responses he had received to CM.</li> <li>• SW mentioned that a lot of Science papers will be collaborative, which begged the question of whether students would present the whole paper or just the bit they were responsible for. RJ felt that the commentary should address this issue.</li> <li>• SG raised the issue of whether CDT or DTP students that may be following bespoke programmes would be able to take advantage of this alternative format. Committee members felt that they should be able to.</li> </ul> <p>The considered view of the Committee was that in principle this was a good way forward and what was being proposed was welcomed, however they would want to be consulted again once detailed proposals were available as there were a number of Science-specific issues that would need to be addressed. SW and SG agreed to compose a response to the consultation on behalf of the Committee.</p> <p>A point that was made in the consultation document about the need for a standardised format for a portfolio (6.5), was not discussed during the meeting but was highlighted in subsequent discussions between the Associate Dean and the Graduate School Manager. It was felt that enforcing a uniform format for this alternative layout went against the principle of trying to facilitate submission of work that has already been done.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>JD</p> <p>SW/SG</p>
	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p>SW said that she would like to formally thank Catrin Yeomans, on behalf of the Committee, for the sterling work that she had done to coordinate and service FRSC since the Graduate School started in 2010, and for her unflinching support for staff and PG students in general. SW also welcomed Ceri Dibble to her new role.</p>	