



Meeting **FACULTY RESEARCH STUDENTS' COMMITTEE**
Place **Wessex House Council Chamber**
Date and Time **12.30 – 2.30pm, Thursday 8th October 2015**

Present	Prof Sue Wonnacott Dr James Doughty Dr Simon Lewis Dr Jim Laird Dr Adrian Hill Dr Lorenzo Caggiano Dr Sergey Gordeev	Chair	Department of Biology and Biochemistry Department of Chemistry Department of Computer Science Department of Maths Department of Pharmacy & Pharmacology Department of Physics
In attendance	Mr Simon Gane Miss Ceri Dibble Mr Matthew Humberstone		Graduate School Manager Programmes Officer Students' Union Officer

		Action
1006	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Dr Sergey Gordeev was welcomed to the meeting as new Director of Studies for Physics PGR and Matt Humberstone as the new Students' Union Officer for the 2015/16 academic year</p>	
1007	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2015 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
1008	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 992 – The new electronic candidature form. This was launched on Monday 5th October but there was a major error with the email that went out to alert students as it appeared to be from the email account of the supervisor (and with the Graduate School names on the signature) when it was actually sent by SREO. To date 156 supervisors have been emailed by SREO with an apology and the incident is being investigated. The Committee expressed concern that such a serious error could be made. There has been a mixed response from supervisors across our departments; Sue Wonnacott (SW) suggested that the DoS forward James Arthur's explanatory email to any supervisors that were upset or angered by the inappropriate email from SREO. 	
1009	<p>CHAIR'S BUSINESS</p> <p>GW4</p> <p>The Building Capacity and Developing People Workstream (BCDP) considered the 5 year plan that included a draft vision of the PG lifecycle (with the aim to enhance reputation and research at GW4 institutions).</p>	

	<p>GW4 has approved funding for a recruitment event, organised by Exeter, to be held at the Marriott Hotel in Bristol on the 26th November to promote all CDTs with one or more GW4 partners. Attendance from current UG students will be encouraged. Susie Douglas may attend on behalf of SAMBa, Simon Gane (SG) to find out if a presence from the Graduate School is required.</p> <p>CDT/DTP committee Formal announcement of the outcome of the MRC GW4 BioMed DTP bid is awaited but there has been informal feedback that it has been successful. Bath anticipates receiving one studentship p.a. for 5 years.</p> <p>2015/16 PGR recruitment The Faculty of Science exceeded target of 99 for the entire year 2015-16, with 106 registrations in September. All departments bar two exceeded their targets but those that didn't expect to exceed their targets over the year. The Faculty induction was more informative than in previous years and was very well attended. SG suggested we review the content for next year. Timing of Faculty PhD Induction was discussed, with pros and cons voiced for both week 0 and week 1. SG and CD will look at this for next year but conflict with additional induction activities for some students (notably those in CDTs/DTPs) will likely be unavoidable.</p> <p>Academic Awards SW reported that academics from Faculty of Science won the majority of the awards in 2014/15. In particular, the Committee congratulated Prof Steve Ward from Pharmacy and Pharmacology for his award for Excellence in Doctoral Supervision.</p>	SG
1010	<p>GRADUATE SCHOOL UPDATE</p> <p>PRES results SW and SG presented figures from the recent PRES survey, including comparisons with GW4 and other sector institutions. The committee considered the summary of results relevant to the Faculty produced by the Graduate School. In the Faculty PRES the response rate was still fairly low but better than previous years. Lorenzo Caggiano (LC) pointed out that he had discovered an error in the raw data which led to incorrect calculations being presented. This issue was raised with Shaun Mcgall who informed LC that the data was calculated by students and is being looked into. Adrian Hill (AH) commented that he wasn't sure if all of the questions were issues that genuinely bothered Maths PhD students or if they were just answering the questions logically. SG asked JL if he thought there was a negative research culture in Computer Science. JL said that this is currently being debated in the department. The Computer Science discipline is very diverse and the different groups tend to talk amongst themselves and don't often mix when encouraged to. James Doughty (JD) also wondered if the students understood the context of the question. SW asked Matt Humberstone (MH) if the Students' Union had reflected on the PRES results. MH replied that the PG Association still needs to do more work to engage PG students. The SU find it difficult to engage PG students and have discussed if they need a different approach. SG will speak to Shaun Mcgall, SW will take the results to the next URSC and all DoS were asked to reflect on the results</p> <p>Progress Reports getting stuck in SAMIS SG presented figures to the committee which showed how many progress reports in each department were getting stuck in SAMIS due to failure to complete (by student, supervisor or in some cases, DoS). SW wondered if SAMIS could send a notification to DoS to advise them of reports that have exceeded an agreed interval after their initiation without being completed. The DoS agreed that 6 weeks would be suitable for a progress report and 4 weeks for a candidature form.</p>	SG SW DoS
1011	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS SW told the DoS of a session for supervisors led by Neil Bannister: Supporting PhD students in distress. The session will take place on Tuesday 10th November from 9.30 to 12.45pm.</p> <p>The next FRSC will be on Tuesday 17th November at 12.30pm in WH 3.36</p>	

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