

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Board of the Faculty of Science

There will be a meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science on 28 May 2008 at **1.30pm** in the Council Chamber, University House.

JF Baldwin
Registrar

Note: Questions on agenda items or apologies for this meeting should be directed to the Secretary of the Committee, Jamie Darwen (ext. 72821 or jamie.darwen@warwick.ac.uk) or the Assistant Secretary, Helen Johnson (ext. 74766 or h.m.johnson@warwick.ac.uk).

AGENDA

1. Minutes

TO CONSIDER:

The minutes of the meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 13 February 2008 (copy attached).

2. Matters arising on the Minutes

(a) Constitution and Membership (minute BFS.1/07-08 refers)

TO REPORT:

- (i) That Professor Jonathan Seville has been appointed as Dean of the School of Engineering and, accordingly, representative of Engineering on the Board of the Faculty of Science;
- (ii) That Professor Paul Harrison has been appointed as representative of the Department of Physics on the Board of the Faculty of Science.

TO CONSIDER:

- (iii) A proposal from the School of Engineering to replace their members on the First Year Board of Examiners for 2007-08 with Dr YM Chung and Dr DJ Britnell.

(b) Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (minute BFS.34/07-08 refers)

TO REPORT:

- (i) That the Board of the Faculty of Science, at its meeting on 13 February 2008 (minute BFS 34/07-08 refers):
 - (A) reported that the Academic Quality and Standards Committee, at its meeting on 1st February 2008, considered a revised draft of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (paper AQSC.6 (revised)/07-08);
 - (B) considered the revised draft of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (paper AQSC.6(revised 3)/07-08); and

- (C) resolved that the revised draft of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (paper AQSC.6(revised 3)/07-08) be referred to the Sub-Faculty of Science and the Graduate Studies Committee for detailed scrutiny, and that these committees should report their recommendations to the next meeting of the Board.
- (ii) That the Sub-Faculty of Science, at its meeting on 14 May 2008 (minute SFS 39/07-08 refers):
 - (A) considered the revised draft of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (paper AQSC.6(revised 3)/07-08); and
 - (B) resolved that consideration of this paper be delegated to the Faculty of Science Enhancement Group meeting on Monday 19 May 2008.
- (iii) That the Graduate Studies Committee, at its meeting on 14 May 2008 (minute SGS 39/07-08 refers):
 - (A) considered the revised draft of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (paper AQSC.6(revised 3)/07-08); and
 - (B) recommended that consideration should be given to the following points regarding the draft Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy:
 - (1) (page 3, para 4) Clarification on whether it was now possible to get promoted to Professor for teaching;
 - (2) (page 4, para 1) Consideration of whether it is appropriate that all learning is research-led, noting that much learning in WMG is industry-led;
 - (3) (page 4, para 4) Consideration that this statement does not reflect most undergraduate teaching at Warwick, noting that degree courses may be influenced by research, but not necessarily done through research;
 - (4) (page 5, point 1 re: Breadth within curricula) Noting that four-year integrated Masters programmes in science were developed because they became required by professional bodies, rather than to provide a flexible alternative.

TO CONSIDER:

- (iv) The revised draft of the Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (paper AQSC.6(revised 3)/07-08, copy attached).

3. Report from the Faculty of Science IT Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Science IT Committee held on 7 May 2008 (copy attached).

4. Report from the Sub-Faculty

TO RECEIVE:

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Faculty of Science held on 14 May 2008 (copy attached).

Assessment Conventions and Degree Classifications

TO REPORT:

- (b) That the Sub-Faculty of Science, at its meeting on 14 May 2008 (minute SFS 34(e)/07-08 refers) received the final proposals of the Assessment Conventions Working Group as set out in paper AQSC 60/07-08, it being noted that:
 - (i) The proposed new 17-mark scale affected more Arts and Social Studies than Science Departments, as those Departments using a full 100-mark scale would continue to do so; and that the pilot of the 17-mark scale had been largely unproblematic;
 - (ii) That further proposed changes included the adoption of a mean-based overall mark for final degree classification and the introduction of a uniform 40% pass mark;
 - (iii) That it was unclear whether the 40% pass mark would apply to first-year exams or only to subsequent/final examinations, and if so, whether it would be a required pass mark for each individual module, each main subject or an overall boundary;
 - (iv) That Annex B, Section 6, was not entirely clear with regard to how the proposals would affect the use of the Seymour formula for students not taking an overload;
- (c) recommended (to the Board of the Faculty of Science and the Academic Quality and Standards Committee):
 - (i) That the principle of the 17-mark scale and the use of a mean-based overall mark be approved;
 - (ii) That the full proposals would be acceptable for implementation in 2008-09, with the exception of the adoption of a uniform 40% pass mark, which should wait until Departments have been able to determine what impact this might have in practice, noting that:
 - (A) some Departments would be happy to introduce a uniform 40% pass mark;
 - (B) First Year Exam Board conventions treat groups of modules as "main subjects", and so it would not be acceptable to require students to pass each individual module at 40%;
 - (C) changing pass marks from 30% to 40% would have a considerable impact on those examinations which involve totalling of many small marks;
 - (iii) That Annex B, section 6, should be re-worded to make clear that the current usage of the Seymour formula would not change;
- (d) and resolved:
 - (i) That Departments should send to the next meeting of the Board of the Faculty of Science their initial assessments of how the introduction of a 40% pass mark would affect their Department in practice, including the possible number of re-sits and whether First Year Exam Board Conventions would have to be substantially changed beyond the insertion of "40%" in place of "30%".

TO CONSIDER:

- (e) The final proposals of the Assessment Conventions Working Group as set out in paper AQSC 60/07-08 (copy attached).

5. Faculty of Science Quality Enhancement Group

TO RECEIVE:

A report from the meeting of the Faculty of Science Quality Enhancement Group (minute BFS.26(c)/07-08 refers) held on 19 May 2008 (to follow).

6. Report from the Graduate Studies Committee

TO RECEIVE:

- (a) The minutes of the meeting of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Science held on 14 May 2008 (copy attached).

Science Postgraduate Training Programme (minute BFS.32/07-08 refers)

TO RECEIVE:

- (b) Notes from the first meeting of the Science Postgraduate Training Programme Working Group held on 20 March 2008 (copy attached).

7. Report from the Faculty of Science Research and Innovation Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The minutes of the meeting of the Faculty of Science Research and Innovation Committee held on 5 March 2008 (copy attached) and an oral report from the Chair on the meeting held on 20 May 2008.

8. Report from the Capital Development Progress Group

TO CONSIDER:

A report from the Science Faculty Capital Development Progress Group (paper BFS.8/07-08, copy attached).

9. Faculty Advisory Board

TO CONSIDER:

A report from the meeting of the Science Faculty Advisory Board held on 15 May 2008 (to be tabled).

10. Chair's Business

11. Life Sciences Strategy

TO CONSIDER:

A discussion paper on the Future of Life Sciences at the University of Warwick (paper BFS.9/07-08, copy attached).

12. Faculty Elections

TO CONSIDER:

The proposed constitutions and nominations for memberships of the following committees for the academic year 2008/09:

- (a) Board of the Faculty of Science (BFS.10/07-08, copy attached).
- (b) Sub-Faculty of Science (BFS.11/07-08, copy attached).
- (c) Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Science (BFS.12/07-08, copy attached).
- (d) Faculty of Science Information Technology Committee (BFS.13/07-08, copy attached).
- (e) First Year Board of Examiners (BFS.14/07-08, copy attached).
- (f) Undergraduate and Graduate Appeals Committee Panels (BFS.15/07-08, copy attached).
- (g) Representatives of the Faculty on other committees (BFS.16/07-08, copy attached)

TO CONSIDER:

- (h) The nomination of Professor Koen Lamberts to serve as the Chair of the Faculty of Science for the 2008/09 academic year, noting that he has served one year in office to date and that University Statute 21 on the Faculties states that the Chair is eligible for reappointment.
- (i) The nomination of Professor Tim Jones to serve as the Deputy Chair of the Faculty of Science for the 2008/09 academic year.

TO REPORT:

- (j) That there are no vacancies for members of the Board of the Faculty of Science to represent the Board on the Senate.
- (k) That the continuing members of the Senate appointed by the Board of the Faculty of Science are as follows:

Professor M J Cooper (2010)	Department of Physics
Professor A Easton (2010)	Department of Biological Sciences
Professor J Gardner (2009)	School of Engineering
Professor J Hutton (2010)	Department of Statistics
Professor C Sparrow (2010)	Institute of Mathematics
Professor R Wilson (2010)	Department of Computer Science

13. Directorships of University Research Centres

TO CONSIDER:

The appointment of Directors of University Research Centres whose terms of office have expired or will expire in 2008 (paper BFS.17/07-08, copy attached).

14. QAA Institutional Audit

TO CONSIDER:

A draft of key sections of the University's Institutional Briefing Paper, prepared by Professor K O'Brien (Senior Academic Coordinator for Audit and Enhancement) and Dr J Moss (Senior Assistant Registrar {Teaching Quality}), as part of preparations for the QAA Institutional Audit taking place during the Autumn Term 2008 (paper BFS.19/07-08, to follow), noting that the completed document must be with QAA by 1 September 2008.

15. Environmental Sustainability

TO CONSIDER:

A memo from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Campus and Community proposing “the environment” as a standing item for Faculty Board agendas (paper BFS.18/07-08, copy attached).

16. Strategic Departmental Reviews

TO CONSIDER:

A report on Strategic Departmental Reviews in the Faculty of Science (paper BFS.20/07-08, copy attached).

17. Items to be brought to the Senate

TO CONSIDER:

Whether there are any specific issues which the Board of the Faculty wishes to refer to the Senate for consideration.

18. Dates of Future Meetings

TO REPORT:

- (a) That dates for meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Science for the academic year 2008/09 have not yet been proposed by the University;
- (b) That dates for meetings of the Board of the Faculty of Science for the academic year 2008/09 will be circulated by the secretariat as soon as they become available.

19. Any Other Business

20. Reserved Items

See separate agenda (copy attached) for academic members of the Board of the Faculty only.

JAD/HJ/BFSAgenda28May08