

Report to the Board of Graduate Studies			
Reference:	006-BGS101122	Report classification:	Protected
Meeting Date	10 November 2022		
Title	Minutes of the Meeting of the Board Held on 9 June 2022		
Owner	Professor Dan Branch, Chair of Board of Graduate Studies		
Author	Laura Larard, Assistant Secretary to the Board of Graduate Studies		
Presenter	Professor Dan Branch, Chair of Board of Graduate Studies		
Recommendation	The Board is invited to approve the minutes		
Purpose of Report (Tick all that apply ✓)			
To provide assurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	To obtain approval	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Regulatory requirement	<input type="checkbox"/>	To highlight an emerging risk or issue	<input type="checkbox"/>
To canvas opinion	<input type="checkbox"/>	For information	<input type="checkbox"/>
To provide advice	<input type="checkbox"/>	To highlight student or staff experience	<input type="checkbox"/>
University Strategy	Additional Considerations (Tick all that apply ✓)		
Research/ Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Risk	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environment and Social Sustainability	<input type="checkbox"/>
Executive Summary			
The Board is invited to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on Thursday 9 June 2022.			

Route Map for this Report			
Committee	Date	Reference	Action Requested/Taken

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK			
BOARD OF GRADUATE STUDIES			
OPEN MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 9 JUNE 2022, COUNCIL CHAMBER, SENATE HOUSE			
Present	Professor Dan Branch	DB	Chair
	Professor Jennifer Burns	JB	Chair, Arts Faculty Education Committee
	Professor Jon Coaffee	JC	CDT representative, Social Science and Arts
	Dr Kurt Debattista	KB	Member of academic staff appointed by Senate
	Sara Hattersley	SH	Representative from Academic Development Centre
	Dr Emily Henderson	EFH	Member of academic staff appointed by Senate
	Professor Davide Nicolini	DN	Co-opted member of academic staff
	Nathan Parsons	NP	Co-opted student member, PG Sabbatical Officer
	Professor Jose Rodrigo	JR	CDT representative, Science, Engineering and Medicine
	Professor Mark Steel	MS	Representative of Board of Faculty of Science, Engineering and Medicine
	Dr David Wright	DW	Member of academic staff appointed by Senate
Attending	Gianni Anelli Lopez	GAL	Representative of PGR SSLC, IER
	Adam Di Lizia	ADL	Representative of PGR SSLC, Economics
	Dr Elizabeth Hough	EH	Assistant Director (Head of Admissions Services)
	Zoi Ioannidou	ZI	Representative of PGR SSLC, Life Sciences
	Laura Larard	LL	Assistant Secretary, Administrative Officer (Doctoral College)
	Rhiannon Martyn	RM	Secretary, Head of Doctoral College
	Becca McGowan	BM	Representative of PGR SSLC, Life Sciences
	David Nicol	DN	Representative of PGR SSLC, WMG
	Louise Sutcliffe	LS	Postgraduate Student Development Officer
	Will Thomas	WT	Head of Welcome and Student Internationalisation Manager (item 095 only)
	Dr Rebecca Vipond	RV	CDT & PG Scholarships Coordination Manager
Ref	Item		
080	Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Dr Ross Forman, Dr Rebecca Freeman, Dr Peter Gammon, Dr Lee Griffin, Dr Xiaodong (Wes) Lin, Dr James Lloyd-Hughes, Professor Graeme MacDonald, Dr Debbi Marais, Gemma Marakas, Santiago Oyarzabal, Dr Jennifer Smith, Dr John Snape, Michele Underwood, Dr Naomi Waltham-Smith, Professor Martin Wills, Roberta Wooldridge Smith		
081	Declarations of Interest No new declarations were made.		
082	Minutes of last meeting on 28 April 2022 The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2022 were received and approved.		
083	Matters arising from last meeting on 28 April 2022		

	<p>The matters arising were as follows:</p> <p>(a) Fellowship’ status for graduated PGRs (minute 062(a)-BGS280422) The proposal discussed at the last meeting had been shared with HR; a response had not yet been received.</p> <p>(b) Supporting neurodiverse PGRs (minute 071-BGS280422) The Chair and Secretary are meeting the Head of Disability Services in July to take this forward.</p>
Chair and Deputy Chair’s Update	
084	<p>Chair’s business and actions</p> <p>(a) Summary of meeting with DGSS The Chair reported that the Doctoral College had met with Directors of Graduate Studies; the main discussion was around strategy, particularly in relation to scholarships. There was a divergence of opinions but a general agreement that decisions should be made earlier in the cycle.</p> <p>There was also discussion around the requirement for a hard bound thesis for library deposit. The Chair reported follow up discussions with the Library, noting that they are working with the Information and Digital Group on the development of a long-term digital secure preservation solution.</p>
085	<p>Deputy Chair’s business and actions</p> <p>The Deputy Chair was not in attendance.</p>
086	<p>Secretary’s business</p> <p>The Secretary reported that decisions relating to EUTOPIA funded co-tutelles and China Scholarship Council awards would be communicated to applicants shortly (noting that this was the first year when the University had exceeded its recruitment target for the CSC).</p>
Strategic item for discussion	
087	<p>PGR strategy</p> <p>MS agreed that there are benefits to having a central strategy, but commented that it is also important for each department to have their own strategy to reflect the essential differences.</p> <p>SH asked whether we are looking for an inward or an outward facing strategy, drawing comparisons with the Education Strategy which is both. DB commented that we need to address the internal need for a strategy before looking to the outward expression of it.</p> <p>There was discussion about the relative value of PGRs – financial (cost or income), contribution to teaching, contribution to research (local and global), and reputation. Expressing this value accurately is important for internal arguments and for presenting an attractive recruitment proposition.</p> <p>DW observed that our strategy should cover supervision – training and support for supervisors, its role in career development (e.g. promotion), and the supervision model.</p> <p>EH observed that there is great disparity between the various ‘directors of graduate studies’ roles in departments and that it would be good to consolidate them.</p> <p>DB reflected that the role of the Board should be re-evaluated, taking the CDT Management Committee as an example where good practice is shared – a similar forum is needed for Directors of Graduate Studies,</p> <p>JC endorsed the need for a strategy and observed that the ‘grand challenges’ and drivers such as the ESRC DTP</p>

	<p>restart are already driving a more joined up strategic approval at faculty level.</p> <p>The Chair invited members interested in discussing these issues further to contact him directly ahead of next BGS meeting.</p>
Students' Union Update	
088	<p>Students' Union Update</p> <p>The PG Sabbatical Officer reported that a new Chief Executive Officer had been appointed at the Students' Union, and that the Faculty representation recruitment process was taking place.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the PG Sabbatical Officer for their contribution to the Board during the last academic year.</p>
Faculty Updates	
089	<p>Science, Engineering and Medicine</p> <p>The issue of childcare funding would be discussed at the next meeting.</p>
090	<p>Social Sciences</p> <p>JC echoed concerns about the lack of representation of PGR issues in current Faculty academic governance structure and reported that the ESRC re-commissioning process, which would be Warwick-led, would be taking place shortly.</p>
091	<p>Arts</p> <p>JB noted that the Internationalisation Strategy is on the agenda and that, although not specified, the underlying assumption is that it applies primarily to UG and PGT students. JB expressed the concern that, formally, PGR was falling between the gap between the faculty education research committees. The Chair thanked JB for her contribution to the work of the Board over recent years, noting that she would be stepping down as CADRE Director and as a BGS member at the end of this academic year.</p>
PGR SSLC Business	
092	<p>PGR SSLC Business</p> <p>BM reported that the School of Life Science's Cafe Culture initiative, aimed at reimagining research culture in the department, provided a good opportunity for PGRs to raise any issues. The Life Sciences SSLC had raised concerns about the period after submission/graduation and lack of access to IT facilities; the Doctoral College would follow up these concerns separately.</p> <p>GAL reported that the IER SSLC had expressed interest in additional opportunities to explore options post-study. The Chair directed the SSLC to events run by Researcher Development.</p> <p>DN reported that WMG had introduced a PGR voice forum, which gave PGRs a direct link with the Director of Graduate Studies and Research Degrees Office. A PGR women's community had been set up which had been received positively.</p> <p>ADL reported that PGRs tend to be focussed on the department meaning that the level of PGR engagement with the wider Warwick community is very limited. University-wide advocacy and support for PGRs with disabilities and mental health conditions is welcome as the numbers of affected PGRs per department are too small to expect department-specific expertise.</p> <p>EH raised the potential issue of SSLCs being merged (so no distinct provision for PGRs) and the undesirability of this.</p>

Items for approval/discussion	
093	<p>Regulation 38</p> <p>The Board recommended that the proposed amendments set out in paper 093-BGS090622 be recommended to Senate for approval.</p>
094	<p>Survey of PGR teaching</p> <p>SH highlighted the main findings of the survey, including the inconsistent application of the GTA policy, a lack of transparency in how opportunities are made available, lack of mentoring, and concerns of potential discrimination.</p> <p>Members agreed that the report is thorough and raises serious issues which need to be followed up, especially the question of departmental roles and responsibilities for the GTAs.</p> <p>DB invited SH to attend the next EDI Working Group meeting, and noted that the upcoming ITLR review will provide an opportunity to discuss the situation further.</p>
095	<p>Welcome Week and PGRs</p> <p>RM reported that scheduling events in Welcome Week itself is not necessarily the best approach for PGRs as a whole. For this reason, in addition to online events and walks, the Doctoral College has decided to prioritise an in person event to be held later in the first term. Events outside of Welcome Week or Spring Term Welcome are out of scope for the Welcome project and are not normally funded, however the Doctoral College is grateful that an exception has been made this year and a contribution to the costs allocated.</p> <p>WT reported that Welcome events are open to all new students, including PGRs. The Welcome team will continue to communicate suitable events via PGR-specific communications, including those run by the Doctoral College.</p>
096	<p>EDI Update</p> <p>DB reported that the next meeting of the EDI working group will be focussed on its future operating model.</p>
Other	
097	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There was no other business.</p>
Next meeting: THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2022, 09.30AM, VENUE TBC	