

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of Graduate Studies

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Graduate Studies held on Tuesday 26 April 2005.

Present: Prof L Bridges (Chair), Prof N Mann, Prof E Peile, Prof P Stoneman, Prof M Wills, Dr C Bilton, Dr D Chetwynd, Dr D Leadley, Dr M Luddy, Dr A Parker, Ms C Adjei, Mr K Mohaddes.

Apologies: Prof K Ansell-Pearson, Prof R Jackson, Prof C Read, Prof M Thorogood, Dr P O'Hare, Dr B Rosamond, Mr R Napier

46/04-05 Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 17 February 2005 be approved.

47/04-05 Matters arising on the Minutes

(a) QAA Code of Practice (minute 36/h/i/04-05 refers)

CONSIDERED:

A proposal outlining possible changes to examination arrangements for research degrees in view of the QAA Code of Practice (paper BGS 23/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Chair amend to the proposal outlining possible changes to examination arrangements for research degrees in view of the QAA Code of Practice to reflect the comments of the Board.

(b) Department of Philosophy: Potential Link with Columbia University (minute 37f/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on funding for the potential link with Columbia University, noting that the Chair was still awaiting further information.

48/04-05 Chair's Business

(a) REPORTED:

That the Chair would send a memo to Chairs of Departments encouraging them to bring proposals for new courses to the first Board meeting of the academic year, if possible, to facilitate admissions and recruitment processes.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair send a memo to Chairs of Departments encouraging them to bring proposals for new courses to a Board meeting in the first term of the academic year, if possible, to facilitate admissions and recruitment processes.

(b) RECEIVED:

A summary of the HEFCE report entitled 'Costs of training and supervising postgraduate research students' (paper BGS 24/04-05) and a paper analysing the HEFCE report entitled 'Postgraduate research degree programmes in English universities-costs and revenues' (paper BGS 25/04-05). The full HEFCE report is available at:

www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/rereports/2005/rd01_05/rd01_05.doc

(c) RECEIVED:

A report on the allocation of Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellowships (Round 1) and Wisconsin-Madison Scholarships and on the short-listing for East European Scholarships (paper BGS 28/04-05).

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Graduate School Office inform departments of the results of these competitions.

(ii) That feedback be sought to determine the additional benefits provided to departments by Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellows when compared with other PhD students.

(d) RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the bid to the University for Scholarship funds for next five years.

RESOLVED:

That the requirement for Warwick Postgraduate Research Fellows to complete 110 hours of work be reviewed.

(e) RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on discussions with Warwick Medical School on the reorganisation of taught postgraduate provision.

REPORTED:

That Warwick Medical School would bring a paper to a future meeting of the Board.

(f) RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Chair on the discussion of postgraduate matters at Steering Committee on 25 April 2005.

(g) RECEIVED:

A report from the Chair on the Academic Satisfaction Review questionnaire for research students (paper BGS 29/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Education Officer investigate ways to ensure that there was no duplication in the completion of questionnaires by students.

49/04-05 Reports from the Faculty Graduate Studies Committees

REPORTED:

That the Chairs of the Graduate Studies Committees of the Boards of the Faculties had no issues to raise at this meeting of the Board.

50/04-05 Postgraduate Committee

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Education Officer on the Postgraduate Committee's recent activities.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Graduate School Office bring a paper to the next meeting of the Board to outline IT and library provision for students who have submitted their theses.
- (ii) That the Assistant Registrar (Planning and Management Information) write to the Home Office regarding the inability of research students on the H100 course code to remain in the UK for twelve months after the completion of their studies.

51/04-05 Accreditation of Prior Learning

REPORTED:

That Senate at its meeting of 09/03/05 considered a proposed policy and application form for the accreditation of prior learning (papers AQSC 14/04-05 {revised 3} and 15/04-05 {revised2}) and resolved as follows:

- (i) That the arrangements for evaluating accreditation of prior (experiential) learning (AP{E}L) requests in relation to staff registered on the Warwick Teaching Certificate (WTC) be reassessed as part of the ongoing review of the WTC with a view to involving a member of staff from the academic department in which an AP(E)L applicant is based in the consideration of that candidate's AP(E)L application.

- (ii) That, subject to (i) above, the proposed policy on accreditation of prior learning be approved as set out in paper AQSC 14/04-05 (revised 3).

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Chair investigate the reason for the 66% maximum proportion for which AP(E)L may be granted for applicants who seek to top-up from a Foundation Degree to an Honours Degree, compared with the 33% maximum proportion for which AP(E)L may be granted for applicants who transfer credit between Honours degrees.
- (ii) That a generic form be produced for completion by departments who wish qualifications to be considered as a means of gaining exemption from modules on a course.

52/04-05 Warwick Sport

REPORTED:

That the Equal Opportunities Committee at its meeting of January 2005 resolved that reports from the Student Union Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer and the Director of Sport be referred to BGS for consideration.

CONSIDERED:

A report from the Student Union Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer (paper EOC15/04-05) and a report from the Director of Sport (paper EOC16/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Chair write to departments to urge them, where possible, to keep Wednesday afternoons free from timetabled lectures, to ensure maximum access to 'Sport for All'.

53/04-05 Postgraduate Recruitment and Admissions

(a) RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office.

(b) CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office to replace the application fee for Postgraduate Awards with an upgrade fee (paper BGS 27/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the proposal from the Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office to replace the application

fee for Postgraduate Awards with an upgrade fee, as detailed in paper BGS 27/04-05, be approved.

(c) RECEIVED:

A paper from the Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office outlining how the money generated by the postgraduate application fee has been spent (minute 32/04-05 refers) (paper BGS 29/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That the Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions office bring a paper to the next meeting of the Board, detailing the expected use of the postgraduate application fee income generated in the financial year 04/05.

(d) Listing New Degrees on Online Application Form (minute 45/04-05 refers)

RECEIVED:

An oral report from the Deputy Director of the Student Recruitment and Admissions Office on the speed with which courses are listed on the online application form after being approved.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair propose that course approval forms be considered by Steering Committee rather than by Senate Committee **in order to minimise the time taken for courses to be listed on the online application form.**

54/04-05 New Doctoral level qualifications

REPORTED:

That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee at its meeting of 23 January 2005 recommended that the Board consider the desirability of developing new doctoral level qualifications and alternative routes to PhD, given the international recognition of that qualification.

CONSIDERED:

The desirability of developing new doctoral level qualifications and alternative routes to PhD, given the international recognition of that qualification.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Chair discuss with relevant departments the desirability of developing new doctoral level qualifications and alternative routes to PhD.

- (ii) That the Chair bring a paper to the next meeting of the Board on the desirability of developing new doctoral level qualifications and alternative routes to PhD.

55/04-05 New length PhD in the Institute of Mathematics

CONSIDERED:

A paper from the Institute of Mathematics proposing a four-year PhD and outlining the rationale for this (paper BGS 26/04-05).

RESOLVED:

That further information be sought from the Institute of Mathematics regarding the rationale for proposing a four-year PhD.

56/04-05 New and Revised Courses of Study

- (a) Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations

REPORTED:

That the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Social Studies approved by Chair's action a proposal from the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations for a restructured MA in Race and Ethnic Studies (paper SGS29/04-05).

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations for a restructured MA in Race and Ethnic Studies as set out in paper SGS29/04-05.

RESOLVED:

That further clarification be sought from the Centre for Research in Ethnic Relations regarding the restructured MA in Race and Ethnic Studies.

- (b) Warwick Manufacturing Group

REPORTED:

That the Graduate Studies Committee of the Board of the Faculty of Science, at its meeting of 25/01/05, approved a proposal from the Warwick Manufacturing Group for a revised MSc in International Technology Management (paper SGS32/04-05) and a covering memo outlining the proposal (paper SGS31/04-05).

CONSIDERED:

A proposal from the Warwick Manufacturing Group for a revised MSc in International Technology Management as set out in paper SGS32/04-05.

RECOMMENDED:

That the proposal from the Warwick Manufacturing Group for a revised MSc in International Technology Management as set out in paper SGS32/04-05 be approved.

57/04-05 Student Rooms

REPORTED:

That the SRIF bid for extra student rooms was unsuccessful.

RESOLVED:

That the Chair approach the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Accommodation) to determine whether there would be any further rooms for postgraduate students in October 2005.