

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of Graduate Studies

There will be a meeting of the Board of Graduate Studies at **2.00pm** on **Tuesday, 23 February 2010** in the **Council Chamber**, University House.

J F Baldwin
Registrar

Note: Committee papers can be accessed at <https://files.warwick.ac.uk/bgs/browse>. Questions on items on the agenda or apologies for this meeting should be directed to the Assistant Secretary to the Board, Rory McIntyre (r.j.mcintyre@warwick.ac.uk).

A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the last meeting

TO CONSIDER:

The minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 19 January 2010 (copy attached).

2. Matters arising on the minutes

(a) Terms of Reference (minute 1/09-10 refers)

TO REPORT:

That, at its meeting on 27 January 2010, the Senate considered a recommendation from the Board that its terms of reference be revised as specified in the minutes, and resolved that the recommendation be approved.

3. Chair's Business

(a) Warwick Collaborative Postgraduate Research Scholarship (WCPRS) Workshop

TO REPORT:

That there will be a workshop on the implementation of WCPRS awards within departments on 11 March 2010 from 12.00 – 2.00pm in the Council Chamber, University House.

4. Chair's Action

TO RECEIVE:

A report on items approved by the Chair on behalf of the Board (paper BGS 36/09-10, copy attached).

5. Reports from the Chair of the Graduate Studies Committees

TO RECEIVE:

Oral reports from the Chairs of the Graduate Studies Committees.

6. Postgraduate Committee and the Students' Union

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Education Officer.

7. The Harris Report

TO CONSIDER:

The Harris Report, published by the Constitutional Advisory Group, in the context of the consideration of the role of the Board going forward (paper S.8/09-10, copy attached).

8. Change to req. 37 to clarify "42 days" (paper from RM)

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the Administrative Officer (Graduate School) proposing minor amendments to University regulation 37.5, Governing Appeals at Taught Postgraduate Level (paper BGS 37/09-10, copy attached).

9. Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) 2010.

TO REPORT:

That Warwick has registered to take part in the survey again in 2010, and that the survey will open on 1 March 2010 for 2 months.

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the Administrative Officer (Graduate School) outlining a proposal for the "institutional" questions that should be included within the core survey (paper BGS 38/09-10, copy attached).

10. Transfer of PGR Students to the University of Warwick from Other Universities

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the Administrative Officer (Graduate School) and the Assistant Registrar (Postgraduate Admissions) outlining proposed changes to the procedure for the transfer of postgraduate research students to the University of Warwick from other Universities (paper BGS 39/09-10, copy attached).

11. Proposed Change to Standard Period of Registration for Full-Time PhD Students

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the Secretary and Chair setting out the possible impact, both positive

and negative, of a move from a 3-year to a 4-year standard period of registration for full-time PhD students (paper BGS 40/09-10, copy attached).

12. Definition of a Thesis

TO REPORT:

- (a) That, at its meeting on 17 November 2009, the Board received a copy of the text of a memo from the Chair of the Board to Departments, setting out the new regulations pertaining to the definition of a thesis in the context of a submission for a research degree at the University (paper BGS 22/09-10) and resolved that the memo be circulated to departments as is;
- (b) That, at its meeting on 19 January 2010, the Board received an oral report from the Chair, and a paper from the Assistant Registrar (Graduate School) summarising departmental responses (paper BGS 33/09-10), noting that this was tabled at the meeting, and resolved that:
 - (i) That, as all departmental responses had yet to be submitted, the finalised paper be considered at the next meeting of the Board;
 - (ii) That clarification be provided to departments on the distinction between submission for a PhD with a portfolio of work, and the award of a PhD for work published.

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the Assistant Registrar (Graduate School) summarising all departmental responses to the consultation (paper BGS 33/09-10 (Revised), copy attached).

13. PGR Annual Course Review Reports

TO CONSIDER:

The summary PGR Annual Course Review Reports prepared by each of the Faculty Graduate Studies Committees, as follows:

- (a) Arts (paper AGSC 19a/09-10, copy attached);
- (b) Medicine (paper GCFM 4/09-10, copy attached);
- (c) Science (paper SGS 43/09-10, copy attached), noting that the Science Graduate Studies Committee highlighted that the number of applications from overseas students is high compared to the number of enrolments they generate on courses within the Faculty;
- (d) Social Science (paper GFSS 176/09-10, copy attached).

14. PGT Grade Descriptors and Award of Merits

TO REPORT:

That, at its meeting on 17 November 2009, the Board considered a report compiled by the Assistant Secretary on issues arising from External Examiners' reports on Postgraduate Programmes for 2007-08 (paper BGS 19/09-10) and resolved (*inter alia*):

- (a) That the Board consider the marking descriptors for PGT courses at a future meeting, with a view to recommending means of ensuring the full range of marks may be used more effectively;
- (b) That the Board revisit its earlier decision to not recommend the introduction of a formal merit award, and that this be considered in conjunction with point (a) above.

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the Secretary, setting out the marking descriptors for PGT courses across the Faculties, and the award of a "Merit" classification for PGT courses at other UK HEIs (paper BGS 42/09-10, copy attached).

15. Erasmus Mundus.

TO RECEIVE:

An extract from a presentation on the Erasmus Mundus programme, setting out, amongst other things, the main features and financial information related to Masters Courses and Joint Doctoral Programmes (paper BGS 48/09-10, copy attached).

16. International Direction in the Strategy

TO CONSIDER:

A strategy paper from the Director of the International Office, setting out the key internationally-related features of what might be needed in the University Strategy to meet our overall goal (paper BGS 49/09-10, copy attached).

17. New Courses

TO CONSIDER:

A paper setting out recommendations for the approval of new courses (paper BGS 46/09-10, copy attached).

18. Revised Courses

TO CONSIDER:

A paper setting out recommendations for the approval of revisions to existing courses (paper BGS 47/09-10, copy attached).

19. Change to University Ordinance 13

TO CONSIDER:

A proposal from the Institute of Education to make amendments to University Ordinance 13 (paper GFSS 182/09-10, copy attached).

20. Any Other Business

21. Next meeting

TO REPORT:

That the next meeting of the Board is on Thursday 6 May 2010 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber.

HRWS/RM 19.2.2010