

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Board of Graduate Studies

There will be a meeting of the Board of Graduate Studies at **2.00pm** on **Tuesday, 19 January 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 17 November 2009 (copy attached).

2. Matters arising on the minutes

(a) Reports from External Examiners (minute 33/09-10 refers)

TO REPORT:

That, at its last 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*) that the Director of Graduate Studies in WMG produce a paper for the Board on the bespoke, in-sessional, English language tuition offered to students within the group;

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the Academic Director of Graduate Studies in Warwick Manufacturing Group outlining English language support mechanisms for students registered on full-time MSc programmes within WMG (paper BGS 28/09-10, copy attached).

(b) Nominations to the UK Council of Graduate Education (UKCGE) Executive Committee (minute 38/09-10 refers)

TO REPORT:

(i) That, at its last meeting on 17 November 2009, the Board received a paper setting out the procedure for nominations to be made to three vacancies on the Executive Committee of the UKCGE (paper BGS 23/09-10);

(ii) That the University had put forward one nominee prior to the deadline on 21 December 2009.

(c) Council Tax (minutes 9/09-10, 97(d)/08-09 and 85/08-09 refer).

TO REPORT:

That, at its meeting on 15 October 2009, it was reported to the Board that, following a decision by Coventry City Council not to proceed with the arrangements proposed by the University to comply with their requirements, the matter [of Council Tax exemption for students in a period of extension] had been referred to the Registrar to raise in the his next direct meeting with the heads of Coventry City and Warwick District Council.

TO RECEIVE:

An oral update from the Secretary on the matter of council tax exemption for students in a period of extension.

3. Chair's Business

(a) Postgraduate Review (minute 27(b)/09-10 refers).

TO REPORT:

That, at its last meeting on 17 November 2009, the Board considered a Universities UK information note setting out the schedule for a Department of Business, Innovation and Skills review of Postgraduate provision (paper SC 70/09-10) and a consultation of members to inform the sector's response, and resolved that a working group be set up by the Chair to consider the University's response to the consultation;

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair, and Warwick's response to the consultation (paper BGS 29/09-10, copy attached);

(b) PGR Funding Working Group (minute 36/09-10 refers).

TO REPORT:

That, at its last meeting on 17 November 2009, the Board considered the convening of a working party to review the current funding model for PGR students, with a view to discussing potential membership and the remit of the Group, and resolved that a working group be set up with membership as laid out in the minutes;

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair on the first meeting of the PGR Funding Working Group.

(c) Directors of Graduate Studies' Lunch

TO REPORT:

That the Autumn term meeting for Directors of Graduate Studies will take place on 16 February 2010 at 12.30pm in the Wolfson Research Exchange.

(d) Update on ESRC DTC Application

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair on the University's ESRC DTC application.

(e) Definition of a Thesis

TO REPORT:

That, at its last 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.

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair, and a paper from the Assistant Registrar (Graduate School) summarising departmental responses (paper BGS 33/09-10, to be tabled).

4. Postgraduate Committee and the Students' Union

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Education Officer.

5. Graduate Awards and Nominations Sub-Committee (minutes 31/09-10 and 4/09-10 refer)

TO REPORT:

That the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Medicine has nominated the following to serve as Faculty selectors on the Graduate Awards and Nominations Sub-Committee, noting that the nominees from the other three Faculties were reported at the last meeting of the Board:

Dr P Sidebotham
Dr D Grammatopoulos

6. Erasmus Mundus Call for Proposals

TO REPORT:

That the 2010 Erasmus Mundus Call for Proposals (paper BGS 30/09-10, copy attached) is now open under three actions:

- (a) Action 1: Joint Programmes, including Scholarships;
- (b) Action 2: Partnerships with Third Country HEIs, including Scholarships;
- (c) Action 3: Promotion of European Higher Education;

With a deadline of 30 April 2010.

TO CONSIDER:

A proposal from the Chair that, in line with the University strategy objective to double PGR students numbers, Warwick submit only applications for Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctorates in 2010, rather than both Doctoral and Masters courses as in previous years.

7. Masters Dissertation Supervision

TO CONSIDER:

A paper setting out the provision of individual Masters dissertation supervision in academic departments, prepared by the Administrative Officer (Graduate School) in the context of an academic complaint from a student in the Faculty of Social Sciences. (paper BGS 31/09-10, copy attached)

8. Winter 2009 Grad School Newsletter

TO RECEIVE:

The newsletter issued by the Graduate School in December 2009 (paper BGS 32/09-10, copy attached).

9. New courses

Centre for Lifelong Learning

In principle approval of the “MA in Career Education, Information and Guidance in Higher Education” and the “MA in the Management of Student Work Experience”

TO CONSIDER:

A proposal from the Centre for Lifelong Learning to approve, in principle, two new courses entitled “MA in Career Education, Information and Guidance in Higher Education” and “MA in the Management of Student Work Experience” (paper BGS 34/09-10, copy attached).

10. Any Other Business

11. Next meeting

TO REPORT:

That the next meeting of the Board is on Tuesday, 23 February 2010 at 2.00pm in the Council Chamber.

HRWS/RM 10.1.2010