

## UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### Board of Graduate Studies

There will be a meeting of the Board of Graduate Studies at 2.00pm on Thursday 15 November 2007 in the Council Chamber, University House.

C E Charlton  
University Secretary

**Note: Questions on agendum items or apologies for this meeting should be directed to the Assistant Secretary to the Board, Jocasta Gardner (j.h.gardner@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 11 October 2007 (copy attached).

2. Matters arising on the minutes

- (a) Postgraduate English Language Requirements (minutes 89/06-07 and 108/06-07 refer)

TO CONSIDER:

A paper from the International Office on the University's postgraduate English language requirements (paper BGS 20/07-08, copy attached).

- (b) Report from Postgraduate Admissions (minute 13/07-08 refers)

TO REPORT:

That the Board, at its last meeting, resolved that the Head of Student Admissions & Widening Participation and Assistant Registrar (Postgraduate Admissions) be asked to prepare a report on the implementation of measures to improve turnaround times for postgraduate applications for consideration at a future meeting of the Board.

TO RECEIVE:

A report from Head of Student Admissions & Widening Participation and Assistant Registrar (Postgraduate Admissions) (BGS 17/07-08, copy attached).

- (c) Graduate Awards and Nominations Sub-Committee (minutes 3/07-08 and SGS 4/07-08 refer)

TO REPORT:

- (i) That the Graduate Studies Committees of the Faculties, at their last meetings, nominated the following to serve on the Graduate Awards & Nominations Sub-Committee:

- (A) Arts  
Professor J Labbe (Terms 1 and 3) and Professor P Marshall (Term 2)  
Dr Newby (Term 1) and Dr S Allan (Terms 2 and 3)
  - (B) Medicine  
Professor E Peile  
Dr A Stokes
  - (C) Science  
Dr A Clark  
Dr A Dowd
  - (D) Social Studies  
Professor S Breslin  
Second member tbc
- (ii) That the Graduate Studies Committees of the Faculties, at their last meetings, nominated the following to serve as Faculty selectors for the WPRS selection process:
- (A) Arts  
Dr C. Bishop  
Professor S Bruzzi
  - (B) Medicine  
Professor M Thorogood  
Professor V Zammit
  - (C) Science  
Professor C Dow  
Dr D Leadley
  - (D) Social Studies  
Dr R Carter  
Professor S Robinson
- (d) Arts and Humanities Research Council's new Block Grant Partnership Scheme (minutes 17/07-08 and AGSC 5(a)/07-08 refer)

TO REPORT:

- (i) That the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Arts, at its meeting on 23 October 2007, received a report from the Chair on the new BGP scheme being developed by the AHRC and also the cap on HEI applications for the current scheme operating in the spring (Paper AGSC.4/07-08), noting:
  - (A) That full information about the cap on applications to the existing competition will be released in December 2007;
  - (B) That the AHRC considers the incoming structure as cross-disciplinary;
  - (C) That the block grants would be awarded for 5 years and, therefore, any application would need to allow for development during this period;

- (D) That the university will need to also be aware of the strengths that competing universities may be claiming in their applications;
  - (E) That the University might want to consider how its WPRS awards could be used to address any funding gaps left by the new system;
  - (F) That there will be a pool competition for those institutions that do not qualify for the block grant;
  - (G) That full information and application forms are expected to be made available in November 2007 for final submission in September 2008, with the outcome being made known in early 2009.
- (ii) That the Graduate Studies Committee of the Faculty of Arts resolved that:
- (A) A working group (including representatives from the Research Group, the Graduate School, the Law School and this Committee) should be set up to review and identify useful existing documentation on the research strengths of relevant departments (including current RAE2 statements);
  - (B) Considering the cap on applications operating in this year's competition, departments should consider how they would justify requesting a particular number of applications and how they would decide which applications to submit to meet this quota;
  - (C) The secretariat would request data from the Graduate School on the number of applications and corresponding grants awarded on a department level for planning purposes.
- (iii) That the AHRC recently published further information on its website ([http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/university\\_staff/future\\_changes\\_pg\\_funding.asp](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/university_staff/future_changes_pg_funding.asp)) about future changes to its funding, noting in particular that:
- (A) Block Grant Partnership (BGP) - The BGP competition will entail institutions submitting bids for five years worth of award allocations and will run every fourth year of the five year cycle. In order to be eligible to apply, HEI's must have been offered an average of eight or more awards per annum in the 2003-07 open competitions;
  - (B) AHRC Studentship Competition - The AHRC studentship competition will provide students with the opportunity to submit an individual bid for an award at a non-BGP institution and will be run in a similar way to the current open competition.
- (e) Erasmus Mundus bids (minutes 83(f)/06-07 and AQSC 74/06-07 and 3(c)/07-08 refer)

TO REPORT:

- (i) That the bid from the School of Theatre, Performance and Cultural Policy to the European Commission for recognition and support of the new collaborative MA in International Performance Research to be taught in collaboration with the Universities of Amsterdam and Tampere had been successful;

- (ii) That the bid from the Department of Economics to the European Commission for recognition and support of the new collaborative MA in Economic Development: Growth, Institutions and History to be taught in collaboration with Lund University, Universidad Carlos III, Madrid and Sciences-Po, Paris had been unsuccessful.
- (f) Warwick Interdisciplinary Science Postgraduate Certificate in Transferable Skills (minutes 10(j)(viii)/07-08, 119(i)/06-07 and SGS 49(d)/06-07 refer)

TO REPORT:

That MOAC had agreed to the title for the new 'Postgraduate Certificate in Transferable Skills' (papers SGS.67(b)-(d)/06-07) being amended to 'Postgraduate Certificate in Transferable Skills in Science' and would shortly submit the amended paperwork.

3. Chair's Business

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair on the University Strategy.

4. Chair's Action

TO RECEIVE:

A report on items approved by the Chair on behalf of the Board (paper BGS 18/07-08, copy attached).

5. Reports from the Chairs of the Graduate Studies Committees

TO RECEIVE:

Oral reports from the Chairs of the Graduate Studies Committees.

6. Postgraduate Committee and Students' Union

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Education Officer.

7. Guidelines on the Supervision and Monitoring of Postgraduate Research Students (minute 14/07-08 refers)

TO REPORT:

That the Board, at its last meeting, resolved that the *Guidelines* be revised in line with discussions at the meeting and reconsidered together with the Annual Report Form at the next meeting of the Board.

TO CONSIDER:

- (a) The amendments to the *Guidelines on the Supervision and Monitoring of*

*Postgraduate Research Students* (paper BGS 5/07-08 (revised), copy attached);

- (b) The form for the 2006/07 Research Student Annual Report to the Graduate School (paper BGS 19/07-08, copy attached).

8. QAA Institutional Audit of the University (minute AQSC 12/07-08 refers)

TO RECEIVE:

A paper entitled 'Preparations for QAA Institutional Audit' (AQSC 7/07-08, copy attached).

9. University Strategy: Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (minute AQSC 11/07-08 refers)

TO REPORT:

- (a) That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee, at its meeting on 24 October 2007, considered:

(i) The University Strategy;

(ii) An oral report from the Chair on the implementation of those sections of the University Strategy concerned with Learning, Teaching and Assessment;

(iii) A draft of the University's new Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy, paper AQSC 6/07-08, noting that this draft would also be sent to Heads of Department and Faculty Boards for consultation.

- (b) That the Academic Quality and Standards Committee resolved that members of the Committee send comments on the draft of the University's new Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy to the Secretariat for incorporation into a further draft to be prepared before the next meeting of the Committee.

TO CONSIDER:

A draft of the University's new Learning, Teaching and Assessment Enhancement Strategy (paper AQSC 6/07-08, copy attached).

10. New Course proposals

TO CONSIDER:

A paper setting out recommendations for the approval of new courses (paper BGS 21/07-08, copy attached).

11. Revised Course Proposals and Discontinued Courses

TO CONSIDER:

A paper setting out recommendations for the approval of revisions to existing courses and a proposal to discontinue a course (paper BGS 22/07-08, copy attached).

Note: The full proposals have not been circulated to members but will be made available for consultation at the meeting. It is not intended to discuss these recommendations at the meeting unless members of the Board wish to raise issues. If you have an enquiry about a particular item, please contact Jocasta Gardner for a copy of the paper.

12. Any Other Business

FE/jg BGS agenda Nov07