

ACADEMIC BOARD
Minutes of the meeting held on
11 APRIL 2006

<u>Present:</u>	Mr J Cooper Mr D Copley Mr A E Dewberry (Secretary) Mr A Dyson Mr C Ellicott Professor R George Professor R Mears Dr T Middleton	Dr F Montgomery Ms J Parry Professor N Sammells Professor G Smith Dr A Thomas Professor D Timms (Chair) Dr C White
<u>In attendance:</u>	Mr J Brady Dr C Davies	Mr D Hamilton
<u>Unable to attend:</u>	Mr J Bennett Professor D Cush	Dr T Hill Professor F Morgan

05/06 MINUTES : 8 NOVEMBER 2005

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2005, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

05/07 MATTERS ARISING

05/05 BSU Approved Award Titles

The Registrar was requested to submit a revised document to the July meeting.

05/08 SCHOOL FOR DEVELOPMENT & PARTICIPATION : SCHOOL BOARD

The Secretary referred to Paper D290 seeking approval to the Terms of Reference and Membership of a new School Board.

Following discussion, the Academic Board :

- a) received Paper D290;
- b) approved the Terms of Reference and Membership of the School Board for the School for Development & Participation, and

- c) noted that Mr D Hamilton, as Head of School, will be 'in attendance' at meetings of the Board until such time as it is appropriate to seek formal emendation of the Articles of Government to increase the size of the Board.

05/09 OFSTED INSPECTIONS 2004 / 05 AND 2005 / 06

Professor D Timms referred to Paper D291 describing action taken to enable the University's secondary provision to achieve a successful re-inspection in 2005 / 06 following a failed inspection in Mathematics and Management and Quality Assurance in 2004 / 05.

The Board noted that this was the first formal report it had received on these matters although other reports had been made to AQSC, the Vice Chancellor's Group and the Board of Governors.

Professor Timms assured the Board that the School and the University had done everything they could do secure the outcome of re-inspection including taking expert external advice.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D291;
- b) noted the damaging results of the Ofsted inspection of secondary teacher training in 2004 / 05 and the steps being taken to ensure success of the re-inspection in 2005 / 06;
- c) noted the risk associated with placements described in para. 9, and
- d) noted the potential reduction in target numbers if Ofsted lodge a Grade 3 as a result of the re-inspection.

05/10 UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENT 2004 / 05

The Deputy Registrar, Dr C Davies, expanded on Paper D292 providing the Academic Board with an analysis of undergraduate assessment results 2004 / 05 and proposing consequent action.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D292;
- b) approved the actions proposed;
- c) requested the Registrar to identify the proportion of passes and failures in the total number of Foundation Degree students in future reports, and
- d) requested the Chair of AQSC to invite a report to that committee on action taken to redress the issue of failure rates referred to in para. 20 of this paper.

05/11 RESOURCE NEEDS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS 2004 / 05

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper D293 describing resource needs arising from Annual Reports 2004 / 05 which had been considered by AQSC.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D293;
- b) noted the increasing need for social learning space, and
- c) noted improvements in computing infrastructure to ensure timely back-up in the event of server failure.

05/12 STUDENT APPLICATIONS 2006 /07

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper D294 reporting on the number of students who have applied to Bath Spa University for entry in 2006 / 07.

The data showed that the Academic Board could have confidence that recruitment in the next academic year would not be greatly affected by the introduction of variable tuition fees. The Registrar reported that the take-up of offers was slower than in previous years but this reflected a national trend.

Professor R George reported on discrepancies in recruitment in Art & Design courses caused by a significant increase in applications last year by students wishing to avoid the additional cost of a foundation year.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D294, and
- b) requested the Registrar to issue a further report on recruitment following the 5 May deadline for UCAS confirmation.

05/13 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

The Academic Board formally received Minutes of the following meetings:

A&D	(SB)	:	26 January 2006
E	(SB)	:	15 March 2006
E&CS	(SB)	:	7 December 2005
H&CS	(SB)	:	9 March 2006
SS	(SB)	:	14 February 2006

05/14 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

NATFHE Industrial Action

The Registrar reported concerns expressed by several students on the potential effect of industrial action on their courses and assessment.

Dr A Thomas informed the Board that NATFHE's current action will not affect students progressing but if the dispute continues into the summer, the position would become very difficult.

The meeting closed at 1040 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Secretary
12 April 2006

