

ACADEMIC BOARD
Minutes of the meeting held on
7 NOVEMBER 2006

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

06/07 MINUTES : 10 OCTOBER 2006

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2006, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record subject to the following emendation:

06/05: In Para 3, substitute the words "Combined Awards" for the words "Foundation Degrees".

06/08 MATTERS ARISING

None.

06/09 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

The Chair welcomed Dr P Davies as a new member of the Academic Board.

**06/10 GRADUATE SCHOOL : ANNUAL REPORT TO ACADEMIC BOARD
AND UWE 2005 / 06**

The Head of Graduate School, Dr P Davies, referred to Paper D303 providing an overview of the School's activities for the academic year 2005 / 06.

The Academic Board was informed that PhD completion times were now monitored by HEFCE and that the average time from submission to viva for BSU students is encouragingly short.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D303, and
- b) noted that approval of the report for submission to the University of the West of England's Graduate Studies Committee was given by the Higher Degrees (Research) Committee on 18 October 2006.

06/11 QAA SPECIAL REVIEW OF POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Dr P Davies referred to Paper D304 reporting the outcome of the QAA Special Review of Postgraduate Degree Programmes.

In its final report issued in July 2006, the QAA had highlighted two areas of good practice:

- The full integration of research degree programmes in BSU with the processes of the awarding body
- The detailed documentation provides to students before and at the beginning of their programmes of study.

Following consideration, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D304;
- b) noted the successful outcome of the QAA Special Review,
- c) noted QAA's advice to ensure that every effort is made to continue to provide adequate opportunities for students to attend and to present research seminars.

06/12 ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF PROFESSORIAL TITLE

The Chair referred to Paper D305 proposing amendments to the arrangements for the award of the University's professorial title including subcommittee membership, referees and procedures for the efficient determination of applications.

Professor Morgan reminded the Board of the need in the early days of these awards for the appointing committee to have a substantial number of external, independent academic assessors and suggested that the institutions' maturity and recent change of status enabled the Academic Board to be fully responsible for the determination of applications.

Professor D Timms expanded upon his report which proposed no changes to the criteria for the award of this honorific title but suggested a focus on internal membership of the Board's committee whilst still retaining external advice, and the seeking of references only after internal members of that committee had established a *prima facie* case.

Following external discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D305;
- b) approved revisions to the arrangements for the award of professorial title as described in Annex C subject to the inclusion of the words "...and learning support" after the word "academic" in paragraph 4 and the substitution of the word 'shall' for the word 'may' in Paragraph 12;
- c) approved the appointment of Professor Denise Cush as a member of the Committee for the Award of Professorial Title for a period of 3 years commencing 1 January 2007;
- d) approved the appointment of Professor Peter Bush (University of Northampton) an external member of the committee for a period of 3 years commencing 1 January 2007;

- e) requested Professor Timms to prepare a report on the possibility of externals being invited to become Honorary Professors of the institution;
- f) approved a quorum of 3 from 5 internal members in respect of the initial assessment of applications and a quorum of 4 from 6 in respect of the full membership of the committee:
- g) rejected a proposal to delete the fourth bullet point in paragraph 2.

06/13 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

The Academic Board formally received minutes of the following meetings:

E&CS	SB	:	11 July 2006
H&CS	SB	:	12 October 2006
M&PA	SB	:	15 May 2006
S&E	SB	:	22 March 2006

The meeting closed at 1020 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Secretary
16 November 2006