

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on

9 JANUARY 2007

Present:

Mr J Cooper	Professor D Timms (Chair)
Dr P Davies	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 T Middleton
Dr T Hill	Professor D Timms
Professor R Mears	Mr S Ward
Dr F Montgomery	

In attendance: Dr K Davies, Mr D Hamilton

Unable to attend: Professor F Morgan, Mr A E Dewberry, Dr A Thomas

06/14 MINUTES : 7 NOVEMBER 2006

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2006, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record subject to the following emendation:

06/12: In Para 3, substitute the word “extensive” for the word “external”.

06/15 MATTERS ARISING

None.

06/16 CHAIR’S BUSINESS

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

06/17 RESEARCH DEGREE AWARDING POWERS

The Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof D Timms, referred to paper D306 and its appendix, providing an update on the University’s application for research degree awarding powers, and the final version of the “critical self-evaluation” that accompanied the application.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) Received the final version of the “Critical Self Analysis” supporting the University’s application for research degree-awarding powers; and
- b) Noted that QAA’s Advisory Committee for Degree Awarding Powers has accepted the *prima facie* case, and is in process of appointing assessors (to be led by Professor Robert Harris, Assistant Director QAA) to consider how far the University meets the Criteria.

06/17 UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENT

The Deputy Registrar, Dr K Davies, referred to paper D307, providing an analysis of the outcomes of assessment of undergraduate programmes in 2005/6, and proposing consequent action.

Following extensive discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) Agreed that in next year's version of this paper "outlying" data would be excluded for the purposes of calculating mean percentage failure rates for subjects;
- b) Requested that the Deputy Registrar compare the outcomes of the University's honours degree classification scheme with those of other Universities, with a view to ensuring that our arrangements were in line with sector norms, and report back to a future meeting of the Academic Board;
- c) Considered the pattern of award classifications in relation to assessment policies within subjects and report back to a future meeting of the Academic Board; and
- d) Approved the actions proposed in the report.

06/19 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

None.

06/20 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS.

The Registrar, Mr C Ellicott, advised that that the University met deadlines for submission of student numbers to HESA in December, and that numbers for 2006/7 were be similar to those of 2005/6. The Registrar also noted that student applications for 2007/8 appeared to have increased considerably over 2006/7. The Academic Board

- a. Noted the Registrar's comments on student numbers and applications; and
- b. Requested that the Registrar produce a report on applications for a future meeting of the Academic Board.

The meeting closed at 1020 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Secretary
16 January 2007