

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on

29 MAY 2007

Present:

Mr J Cooper	Professor F Morgan (Chair)
Dr P Davies	Ms Julie Parry
Mr A E Dewberry (Secretary)	Professor N Sammells
Mr A Dyson	Professor G Smith
Professor R George	Dr A Thomas
Professor R Mears	Professor D Timms
Professor T Middleton	Professor S Ward
Professor F Montgomery	

In attendance: Mr J Brady, Mr D Hamilton

Unable to attend: Mr C Ellicott, Dr B Griffin, Dr T Hill, Mr D Pickett

06/27 MINUTES : 17 APRIL 2007

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 April 2007, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

06/28 MATTERS ARISING

06/24 (c) Bath Spa University Honorary Awards

The Chair confirmed that Dr Rick Curr and Mr Alan Carter would be delighted to receive Honorary Fellowships of the University.

06/29 RESOURCE NEEDS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS 2006 / 07

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper D310 describing resource needs arising from Annual Reports in 2006 / 07.

The Board noted the substantial improvements in Library and IT provision and the continuing concerns over the provision of academic space and the stability of MINERVA.

The Chair outlined the range of options being investigated to resolve the space issue including South Quays, the purchase of a school for PGCE teaching, the development of new buildings at Sion Hill and the possible re-use of Corsham Court. The Chair also stated the critical importance of course quality and the student experience. He stated that if space of the appropriate quantity and quality cannot be found, then student intakes would be adjusted accordingly to maintain the quality of teaching and learning.

Professor R Mears informed the Board that there had been no reported glitches in MINERVA since the establishment of the University's Computer Centre in Twiverton.

Following discussion, the Academic Board received Paper D310.

06/30 BUDGET PROPOSALS 2007 / 08

Mr J Brady referred to Paper D311 enabling the Academic Board to consider Budget Proposals 2007 / 08 and, in particular, to advise the Vice Chancellor on the distribution of academic budgets.

The Chair thanked the Heads of Schools for delivering target SSR's across the institution.

Mr J Cooper expressed concern over Open Access Computing facilities, the programme for replacement of PCs in those rooms and the age of the current version of the statistics software SPSS. In response, the Chair requested Professor D Timms to establish if these matters were actually affecting the student experience.

Professor N Sammells asked the Board to note an overall increase in the level of funding for research and scholarship. Professor D Timms reminded the Board that BSU is unusual in the degree of openness it offers to the Academic Board in discussing budgets and inviting comments.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D311, and
- b) noted that the annual revenue budget will be presented to the Board of Governors for approval on 27 June 2007.

06/31 ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS OF RESEARCH

The Chair referred to Paper D312 providing the Academic Board with an up to date overview of the national expectations with respect to the University's policies and procedures on ethical approval for research projects involving human participants and proposing changes to existing practice in the University.

The Chair emphasised the importance of locating the proposed Research Ethics Committee in the correct place within the institution. For pragmatic reasons, he intended to position it within the executive but stressed the importance of maintaining good communication with the Academic Board.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D312, and
- b) endorsed the establishment of a Research Ethics Committee within the executive structure.

06/32 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Mr J Cooper made further reference to the status of sub-committee minutes received by the Academic Board. The Secretary undertook to take the matter up with Heads of School.

06/33 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

The Academic Board formally received minutes of the following meetings:

BOG	:	31 January 2007
A&D SB	:	15 March 2007
H&CS SB	:	8 March 2007
S&E SB	:	10 January 2007
	:	21 March 2007
SS SB	:	2 May 2007
AQSC	:	8 February 2007
AQSC	:	26 April 2007
RC&S	:	1 February 2007
HD (T) C	:	25 April 2007
HD (R) C	:	9 May 2007
L&TC	:	20 March 2007

The meeting closed at 1050 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Secretary
11 June 2007