

## ACADEMIC BOARD

### Minutes of the meeting held on

**6 NOVEMBER 2007**

Present:

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

In attendance: Mr J Brady

Unable to attend: Mr J Anderson, Mr D Hamilton, Professor D Timms

#### **07/01 MINUTES : 3 JULY 2007**

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2007, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

#### **07/02 MATTERS ARISING**

##### **06/32 Committee Minutes**

Mr J Cooper referred to the current arrangements for accessing papers and minutes via Sharepoint and it was agreed that this should be improved by a direct link to 'Academic Board' rather than 'Academic Office'. It was also agreed that Academic Board papers would be placed on Sharepoint prior to meetings.

#### **07/03 STUDENT APPLICATIONS AND RECRUITMENT 2007 / 08**

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper D315 reporting the number of students who applied for entry in 2007 / 08 and provisional recruitment figures in 2007 / 08 for full-time degrees and PGCE courses only.

The Board noted that although applications had risen by 22% (nearly four times the sector average), conversion rates had fallen such as to leave the net position in 2007 / 08 almost exactly the same as in 2006 / 07.

Dr Thomas suggested that the University will meet its HEFCE recruitment targets for full-time undergraduate and PGCE courses but not for Foundation degrees.

The Chair expanded on the following potent issues which might affect recruitment in the medium term:

- despite the general expansive mood of other teaching-led universities, there was little scope with current government policy for additional numbers in orthodox degrees
- a significant demographic downturn in traditional entrants from 2011
- a possible increase in tuition fees from 2009

Professor N Sammells reminded the Board that the employability of students was a major issue that could influence the University's future recruitment pattern.

Following discussion, the Academic Board received Paper D315.

#### **07/04 STUDENT COMPLAINTS 2006 / 07**

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper D316 providing the Academic Board with an annual report on complaints (including their outcomes) received by the University's Complaints Officer in 2006 / 07.

The Academic Board noted that the number of complaints remains low at 21 for the whole academic year and that of these, only a small proportion related to academic procedure, learning opportunities or other matters within the Board's remit.

Following discussion, the Academic Board received Paper D316.

#### **07/05 TEACHING-LED RESEARCH**

Professor N Sammells referred to Paper D317 describing the University's use of the phrase 'teaching-led research' against its objectives and their outcomes, and to determine whether in the light of the recent scrutiny for research degree awarding powers, the phrase should be revised in the University's public statements.

The Board recognised the need to keep the usefulness of the phrase 'teaching-led research, not research-led teaching' under review in the light of changing circumstances and needs.

Following discussion, the Academic Board received Paper D317.

#### **07/06 QAA INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT 2008**

Dr N Sammells referred to Paper D318 informing the Academic Board of the forthcoming QAA Institutional Audit commencing with a 'Briefing visit' on 28 – 30 January followed by an 'Audit visit' on 03 – 07 March 2008.

The Board noted the broad resemblance to previous audit procedures but with more explicit attention to collaborative arrangements and those for postgraduate research students. The Board also noted the intention of the Students' Union to make a 'Student Written Submission'.

Following discussion, the Academic Board received Paper D318.

#### **07/07 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper D319 providing the Academic Board with updated data for the University's chosen set of performance indicators and a note on progress against the red and amber indicators.

The Board noted again the relatively poor position of the University with regard to the employability of its graduates in higher paid jobs requiring a degree level qualification.

Mr J Cooper referred to comments made in the Students' Union magazine H<sub>2</sub>O. The Secretary undertook to ask the SU to copy this publication to all members of the Academic Board as a matter of course.

**07/08 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT**

The Academic Board formally received minutes of the following meetings which had been posted on Sharepoint:

E&CS	SB	:	9 May 2007
H&CS	SB	:	24 May 2007
S&E	SB	:	23 May 2007
L&TC		:	22 May 2007
AQSC		:	4 October 2007

The meeting closed at 1030 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry  
**Secretary**  
12 December 2007