

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on

11 MARCH 2008

Present:

Mr J Anderson (from Item 4)	Professor R Mears
Ms A Baud	Professor T Middleton
Mr J Cooper	Professor F Montgomery
Dr P Davies	Professor F Morgan (Chair)
Mr A E Dewberry (Secretary)	Professor G Smith
Mr A Dyson	Dr A Thomas
Mr C Ellicott	Professor D Timms
Professor R George	Professor S Ward
Dr T Hill	

In attendance: Mr J Brady

Unable to attend: Dr B Griffin, Professor N Sammells

07/18 MINUTES : 8 JANUARY 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2008, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record subject to the following emendation:

In 07/14, QAA Institutional Audit 2008 : Briefing Paper, to note that Paper D322 presented the final version of the Briefing Paper and that drafts had been considered by the Academic Board and its relevant Committee prior to submission to QAA.

07/19 MATTERS ARISING

07/12 Research Degree Awarding Powers

Professor D Timms informed the Academic Board that formal representations had been made to the QAA's Advisory Committee in response to its suggestion that the University's application should rest 'in abeyance' for at least 18 months. The Board noted that the QAA was meeting this day to consider BSU's response.

07/13 Review of Modular Scheme

Professor R Mears reported on early meetings of the Vice Chancellor's working party and guidance being sought from external advisors. The Academic Board noted a two-stage approach involving a review of the generic structure of undergraduate provision followed by detailed consideration of subjects and awards.

07/20 UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENTS 2006 / 7

Mr C Ellicott referred to Paper D324 providing the Academic Board with an analysis of undergraduate assessment results 2006 / 7.

The Board noted the significant improvement in good Honours degrees and the introduction of classifications for Foundation Degrees.

Mr J Cooper recommended further analysis of statistics with particular reference to gender mix and BA / BSc classifications.

Following discussion, the Academic Board received Paper D324.

07/21 GRADUATE SCHOOL : ANNUAL REPORT ON RESEARCH DEGREE PROVISION 2006 / 7

Dr P Davies expanded on Paper D324 providing the Academic Board with an overview of Graduate School activity for the academic year 2006 / 7 and which had been endorsed by the Higher Degrees (Research) Committee.

The Board noted that the Committee was reviewing the merit of raising entry qualifications for PhD registration from an Upper Second to a Masters Degree. Dr Davies advised that HRC studentships could be harder to obtain given a recent change in criteria.

Professor D Timms congratulated Dr Davies on the analysis and presentation of HEIDI data which had made a significant and informed contribution to the University's representations to QAA on its RDAP application.

07/22 RESOURCE NEEDS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS 2007 / 08

Dr A Thomas referred to Paper D326 describing resource needs identified in annual reports 2007 / 8.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D326;
- b) noted that the draft report had been considered by AQSC, and
- c) noted that the only major resource issue facing the University was a shortage of space.

07/23 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Validation of Academic Board Committee Minutes

Mr J Cooper reported discrepancies in the marking of Committee minutes as 'confirmed'. The Secretary was requested to write again to the Heads of School and other Chairs of Academic Board committees to ensure uniformity.

07/24 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

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

RCS(C)	:	1 November 2007
H&CS SB	:	11 October 2007
A&D SB	:	7 November 2007

S&E SB : 10 October 2007
MPA SB : 10 December 2007
HD(R) : 12 December 2007
AQSC : 6 December 2007
D&P SB : 4 December 2007

The meeting closed at 1015 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Secretary
12 March 2008