

ACADEMIC BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on

1 JULY 2008

Present:

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

In attendance: Mr J Brady, Mr D Hamilton
Ms K Akerman, Dr C Davies (to Agenda item 4 only)

Unable to attend: Mr J Couzens-Smith, Professor F Morgan, Professor D Timms

07/33 CHAIR

The Vice Chancellor had requested Professor N Sammells to chair the meeting.

07/34 HEAD OF QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Professor N Sammells welcomed Ms K Akerman who had been invited by the Vice Chancellor to be in attendance at meetings of the Academic Board.

07/35 MINUTES : 20 MAY 2008

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2008, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

07/36 MATTERS ARISING

07/27 Budget Proposals 2008 / 09

Mr J Brady informed the meeting that the Board of Governors had approved the Budget 2008 / 09 in a form substantially the same as that presented for comment in May 2008 to the Academic Board.

07/37 REGULATIONS FOR REVISED UNDERGRADUATE MODULAR SCHEME

Professor N Sammells referred to Paper D330 seeking the Academic Board's approval to the regulations of the revised Modular Scheme as described in the handbook, "Undergraduate Modular Scheme : A Guide for Students 2009 / 10".

Dr K Davies expanded on her report noting in particular that the external advisors had expressed unanimous support for the proposals.

During an extended discussion, the Board noted:

- the very minor emendations recommended by the external advisors
- the need for further attention to how students can recover academic failure before the end of an academic year if they wish
- the need to provide sufficient space for group work
- the need for further consideration of appeals procedures in relation to plagiarism and the inability of the University at any time to deliver courses or assessment for reasons beyond its control
- the need to avoid the possibility of reduced contact hours in the third year through careful assessment during the approvals process
- the need for Subject Teams to engage with focus and urgency on the redesign of their courses

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D330;
- b) approved the new regulations for the Modular Scheme as described in the revised Handbook and incorporating the minor changes suggested by the external advisors;
- c) thanked the working party led by Professor R Mears for the outstanding work done by several colleagues over a short period and with such a positive outcome, and
- d) noted that a schedule for course re-approvals had been circulated to Heads of School and Subject Teams.

07/38 QAA INSTITUTIONAL AUDIT

Professor N Sammells referred to Paper D331 informing the Academic Board of the outcomes of the QAA Institutional Audit 2008.

The QAA final report represented an outstanding endorsement of the university's academic standards. It expressed full confidence in both the management of those standards and the management of learning opportunities. The report contained no "essential" or "advisable" recommendations.

The five "desirable" recommendations referred to matters simple to remedy.

The report also identified four "features of good practice", three of which are in areas key to some of the University's strategies (collaborative work with FE institutions, ArtsWork, the University's CETL, and the management of research degrees).

Following consideration, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D331;
- b) noted the Report of the QAA Institutional Audit 2008;
- c) remitted the detailed response to the Report to the University's Head of Quality Management and AQSC, and
- d) noted that as a result of this outcome, Bath Spa University would not be inspected for a further six years.

07/39 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None.

07/40 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT

The Academic Board formally received 'confirmed' minutes of the following meetings:

SS	SB	:	20 February 2008
BSAD	SB	:	13 March 2008
E	SB	:	12 March 2008
SHCS	SB	:	13 March 2008
RCS		:	13 March 2008
S&E	SB	:	9 January 2008
AQSC		:	10 April 2008
D&P	SB	:	7 April 2008
S&E	SB	:	19 March 2008

The meeting closed at 10.15 hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry
Secretary
2 July 2008