

## ACADEMIC BOARD

### Minutes of the meeting held on

**7 OCTOBER 2008**

<u>Present:</u>	Ms A Baud	Professor T Middleton
	Mr J Cozens-Smith	Professor F Montgomery
	Dr P Davies	Mr D Moore
	Dr M Deegalle	Professor F Morgan (Chair)
	Mr A E Dewberry (Secretary)	Professor N Sammells
	Mr A Dyson	Professor G Smith
	Professor R George	Dr A Thomas
	Dr M Lundskaer-Neilsen	Professor D Timms
	Professor R Mears	Professor S Ward

In attendance: Mr D Hamilton

#### **08/01 ACADEMIC BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

The Vice Chancellor welcomed the following as new members of the Academic Board :

Mr Joey Cozens-Smith	:	President of the Students' Union
Dr Mahinda Deegalle	:	School of Historical and Cultural Studies
Dr Miranda Lundskaer-Nielsen	:	School of Music & Performing Arts
Mr David Moore	:	School of Music & Performing Arts

The Board formally acknowledged the contribution made by each of the three retiring members (Dr Tracey Hill, Dr Brian Griffin and Mr John Cooper) to the work of the Academic Board over several years. The Secretary was requested to write to these former members to confirm the Board's appreciation.

In response to the Chair's invitation, the President of the Students' Union confirmed that increased representation and improved feedback to students were the Union's key objectives in the new academic session.

#### **08/02 MINUTES**

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2008, which had been circulated, were received as a correct record.

#### **08/03 MATTERS ARISING**

None.

#### **08/04 CHAIR'S ACTION**

The Vice Chancellor reported taking Chair's Action in respect of the following:

- a) Approval of the Examination Board Schedule 2008 / 09, and
- b) Approval of the award of an Honorary Fellowship to Gavin Bryars.

## **08/05 HONORARY DEGREES AND TITLES**

Professor D Timms reminded the Academic Board of the difficulties in securing speakers for Graduation Ceremonies and invited members to consider proposed amendments for the award of honorary degrees and titles described in Paper D332.

The Board noted that these drew on the University's new research degree awarding powers, allowing the award of an Honorary Fellowship to promote relationships with learned professionals without the need for employment. The proposals also revived the Honorary Degrees & Titles Committee with revised membership and terms of reference set out in Annex 2 to this report.

The Board discussed the concept of a 'Visiting Professorship' but decided not to complicate the proposals set out in Professor Timms' report.

Following detailed consideration, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D332;
- b) approved the addition of 'Honorary D Litt' to the list of honorary awards;
- c) delegated the identification of potential award recipients to an 'Honorary Degrees and Titles Committee' with membership and terms of reference described in Annex 2 to the Paper, and
- d) approved the arrangement for the award of honorary degrees and titles also described in Annex 2.

## **08/06 RESEARCH DEGREE REGULATIONS**

Professor D Timms referred to Paper D333 presenting the Academic Board with proposed research degree regulations for implementation following the University's successful application for research degree awarding powers.

Dr P Davies expanded on the detail of the proposed regulations and advised the Board that PhD students had already chosen whether to stay registered with the University of the West of England or transfer to Bath Spa University.

Following discussion, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D333;
- b) adopted the proposals for University Regulations for Research Degrees without specified amendments, and
- c) noted that the approved regulations were supported by a significant bank of detailed guidance notes.

## **08/07 HIGHER DEGREES (RESEARCH) COMMITTEE : MEMBERSHIP & TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Dr P Davies referred to Paper D334 seeking the Academic Board's approval to a revised membership and terms of reference for its Degrees (Research) Committee.

Following consideration, the Academic Board:

- a) received Paper D334;
- b) noted that consultation will be initiated by the Academic Office, and
- c) approved the revised membership and terms of reference of the Higher Degrees (Research) Committee as described in Annex 2 to Paper D334.

**08/08 OFSTED : REVIEW OF ITT FOR FE TEACHERS 2007 / 08**

Professor D Timms referred to Paper D335 informing the Board of the outcome of an Ofsted Inspection of Further Education Teacher Training (FETT) provision conducted at the University in 2007 / 08 by Her Majesty's Inspectors.

The Head of the School for Development & Participation, Mr D Hamilton, expanded on the nature and extended timescales of the inspection and stressed the importance of support given by staff in partner institutions.

The Vice Chancellor congratulated Mr D Hamilton and his staff on the outstanding achievement of a Grade 1 assessment, one of only 5 awarded by Ofsted in the past five years.

Following consideration, the Academic Board received Paper D335.

**08/09 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**08/10 ITEMS FOR RECEIPT**

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

HD(R)C		:	7 May 2008
M&PA	SB	:	12 May 2008

The meeting closed at 10:15hrs.

Anthony E Dewberry  
**Secretary**  
14 October 2008