

Master's Quality Committee (Business, Engineering & Physical Sciences)

Confirmed Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 24 March 2015

Present:

Dr Simon Archer, College Tutor
Dr Laura Barter, Department of Chemistry
Dr Alessio Corti, Department of Mathematics
Dr David Dye, Department of Materials
Professor Bassam Izzuddin, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Professor Richard Jardine, College Consul (Engineering & Business School)
Professor Howard Johnson, Department of Earth Science & Engineering
Professor Andrew Holmes, Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Mr Pascal Loose, Deputy President (Education), Imperial College Union
Dr David McPhail, Deputy Director of the Graduate School – Chair
Professor Stefan Maier, Department of Physics
Dr Marco Mongiello, Business School
Dr Darryl Overby, Department of Bioengineering
Dr Fariba Sadri, Department of Computing
Professor John Seddon, College Consul (Natural Sciences)
Dr Nick Voulvoulis, Centre for Environmental Policy

In attendance:

Dr Ben Britten, Department of Materials – for item 4.2 only
Dr Mirabelle Mulis, Business School – for item 4.1 only
Professor William Lee, Department of Materials – for item 4.2 only
Dr Moji Moatamedi, Department of Materials – for item 4.2 only
Ms Tamsin Roberts, Quality Assurance Administrator
Mr Daniel Smith, Assistant Registrar (Quality Assurance & Enhancement) – Secretary

Apologies:

Professor Sergei Chernyshenko, Department of Aeronautics
Professor Sue Gibson, Director of the Graduate School
Professor Debra Humphris, Vice Provost (Education)
Professor Kang Li, Department of Chemical Engineering
Ms Nida Mahmud, President, Graduate Students' Union
Mr Dean Pateman, Academic Registrar
Professor Denis Wright, Director of Student Support

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and apologies, as listed above, were noted.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on January 2014 were confirmed with no amendments. Due to the small number of items this meeting had been held electronically, via E-mail.

BEPS.2014.26

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

3.1 Minute 3: Student Exchange Partnerships in the Business School

Dr David McPhail confirmed that the memoranda of agreement were in development.

3.2 Minute 4: MSc in Economics & Strategy for Business

Dr David McPhail confirmed that the proposal to change the start date of the MSc in Economics and Strategy for Business had been recommended to Senate for approval as the agreement of the deferred students had been received.

4. New Programme Proposals

4.1 MSc in Climate Change, Management & Finance

BEPS.2014.27

The Committee considered a proposal from the Business School and the Grantham Institute for Climate Change to introduce a new MSc in Climate Change, Management & Finance with effect from September 2015. The programme would be offered on a full-time (one year/12 months) basis only with the Business School as the lead department.

4.1.1 Dr Mirabelle Mulis presented the proposal to the Committee. Dr Mulis explained that there had been a desire to merge the expertise of the Grantham Institute for Climate Change with the Business School

4.1.2 The Committee noted that there was a curriculum overlap with a number of existing programmes and modules across the College, particularly from within the Centre for Environmental Policy. Dr Mulis commented that whilst the MSc in Climate Change, Management & Finance was related to existing provision this new programme was framed specifically within the context of climate change, rather than the broader context of environment generally. Dr Mulis expressed a wish to work with the Centre for Environmental Policy more closely.

4.1.3 The Committee recommended that the Business School and Grantham Institute for Climate Change consult other relevant departments regarding curriculum overlap.

Action: Business School

4.1.4 The Committee noted that a significant number of modules had not been assigned a module leader. Dr Mulis commented that whilst teaching teams had been identified for all modules that in some cases a specific module leader was yet to be identified.

4.1.5 The Committee recommended that a module leader be appointed for each proposed new module.

Action: Business School

4.1.6 The Committee queried the use of Supplementary Qualifying Examinations (SQEs) for candidates who did not meet the entrance criteria. Dr Mulis commented that SQEs were only used in exceptional circumstances for applicants with extensive and significant professional experience.

4.1.7 The Committee further queried whether a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy would provide students with the quantitative background expected of applicants.

4.1.8 The Committee recommended that the department consider whether the curriculum of Bachelor's Degrees in Accounting would equip students with the necessary quantitative skills.

Action: Business School

4.1.9 The committee noted that there was no provision for scholarships on the programme and that whilst industrial partners had expressed interest in joining an Advisory Board for the programme that there had been no commitment of resources from industry. Dr Mulis commented that there would be at least one scholarship available from the Business School. The advisory Board would be formed of representatives from 10 major organisations and that at least 20 companies had expressed an interest in the programme through providing guest lectures, advice etc. Dr Mulis commented that there was a plan to develop scholarships with industry but that partners were cautious of committing resources to a programme before it was approved.

4.1.10 The Committee recommended that the department establish a timeframe for the creation of the Advisory Board and seek letters of support from industry. The Committee noted that partners in industry could be reassured that the committee looked favourably upon the development of the programme.

Action: Business School

4.1.11 The Committee requested the proposal be resubmitted for consideration at its meeting on Tuesday 26 May following completion of the actions above.

4.2. MRes in Nuclear Energy

BEPS.2014.28

The Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Materials to introduce a new MRes in Nuclear Energy with effect from October 2015.

4.2.1 Professor William Lee, Dr Ben Britton and Dr Moji Moatamedi presented the proposal. The committee noted that the MRes would form part of an integrated MRes/PhD 1+3 programme in the Imperial, Cambridge Open University (ICO) Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Nuclear Energy.

4.2.2 The Committee noted that there was no new taught content to the programme as it drew heavily on the existing MSc in Nuclear Engineering and queried whether it was necessary to create a separate programme. The programme team commented that as a significant number of applicants to the CDT programme already had an MSc the addition of an MRes would make the programme would attractive.

4.2.3 The committee noted a number of inconsistencies in the programme information and recommended that the credit information be clarified.

Action: Department of Materials

The Committee noted a number of inconsistencies regarding the availability of the programme to international applicants and recommended that the applicant information be clarified.

Action: Department of Materials

The Committee noted that the response to the external reviewer's comments was not as extensive as would normally be expected. The Committee recommended that the programme team give further consideration to the external reviews.

Action: Department of Materials

The committee agreed to recommend the programme for approval by Senate subject to confirmation of the actions above.

5. Modification Proposals

5.1 Global MBA

BEPS.2014.29

The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to change the title of the Global MBA with effect from October 2015.

5.1.1 The Committee noted that the school wished to change the programme title to the 'Global On-line MBA' in order to assist with marketing and their placement in rankings.

5.1.2 The Committee agreed to recommend the change to the title of the Global MBA to Senate for approval with effect from October 2015.

5.2. MBA (Suite of Programmes)

BEPS.2014.30

The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to change the entry requirements of the MBA (suite of programmes) with effect from October 2015. The MBA (suite of programmes) includes the MBA (full-time), the Executive MBA, the Executive MBA (Weekends) and the Global MBA

5.2.1 The Committee noted that applicants with professional accountancy qualifications who do not meet the necessary academic entry requirements are currently considered as special cases. By including membership of the ACCA as an acceptable entry qualification the Business School would avoid the need to seek a special case for these students.

5.2.2 The Committee recommended that the Business School present a paper to the meeting of the Master's Quality Committee on Tuesday 26 May showing the entry and exit qualifications of students who have been admitted to one of the MBA suite of programmes as a special case on the basis of ACCA membership. This should include details of additional professional or academic qualifications including years of professional service. The Committee would like to see further evidence that students admitted with this qualification are capable of achieving the learning outcomes of the programme.

5.2.3 The Committee approved the request to change the entry requirements

of the MBA (suite of programmes) with effect from October 2015.

5.3 MSc in Applied Mathematics

BEPS.2014.31

The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Mathematics to remove the August entry point on the MSc in Applied Mathematics with effect from August 2016 and to restructure the same programme with effect from August 2015.

- 5.3.1** The Committee noted a significant amount of missing information in the programme specification and recommended that the programme structure information be completed.

Action: Department of Mathematics

- 5.3.2** The Committee approved the request to remove the August entry point of the MSc in Applied Mathematics with effect from August 2016 and to restructure the same programme with effect from August 2015.

5.4 MRes in Mathematical Science

BEPS.2014.32

The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Mathematics to change the title of the MRes in Mathematical Science with effect from October 2015 and to withdraw two streams of the same programme also with effect from October 2015.

- 5.4.1** The Committee noted that the department wished to change the title of the programme to the 'MRes in Stochastic Analysis' as this was the most popular stream of the current MRes in Mathematical Science. The remaining two streams; 'scientific computation' and 'Statistics: Advanced Pattern Detection and Signal Analysis' would be withdrawn.

- 5.4.2** The Committee agreed to recommend the change in title to the MRes in Mathematical Science to Senate for approval with effect from October 2015. The Committee further approved the withdrawal of the 'scientific computation' stream and the 'Statistics: Advanced Pattern Detection and Signal Analysis' stream of the MRes in Mathematical Science with effect from October 2015.

5.5. MSc in Nuclear Engineering

BEPS.2014.33

The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Materials to change the title of the MSc in Nuclear Engineering with effect from October 2016.

- 5.5.1** The Committee noted that the department wished to change the title of the programme to the MSc in Advanced Nuclear Engineering in order to assist with marketing.

- 5.5.2** The Committee agreed to recommend the change in title of the MSc in Nuclear Engineering to Senate for approval with effect from October 2016.

6. Surveys

6.1. PTES Departmental Action Plans

BEPS.2014.34

The Committee considered outstanding departmental actions plans

following PTES 2014.

- 6.1.1** The Committee noted that plans which had been received earlier were considered at the meeting of the MQC (BEPS) held 4 November 2014.
- 6.2 ICU PTES Response 2014** **BEPS.2014.35**
The Committee considered the Imperial College Union's Response to the results of PTES 2014.
- 6.2.1** The Committee considered ways in which the availability of feedback could be improved, particularly feedback in respect of written examinations. The Committee recommended that departments make clear the timelines for feedback in their programme handbooks.
- 7. Chair's Report** **BEPS.2014.36**
The Committee noted the actions taken by the Chair on behalf of the Committee since the last meeting.
- 8. Arrangements for Considering Master's Level External Examiners' Reports**
The Committee noted the revised process for considering Master's level external examiner reports and the responses currently outstanding.
- 9. MA/MSc in Innovation Design Engineering (IDE) & MA/MSc in Global Innovation Design (GID)**
The Committee noted that the Memoranda of Agreement for the MA/MSc in Innovation Design Engineering and the MA/MSc in Global Innovation Design were currently being updated to include new timings, termination and competition clauses as well as other minor changes. The revised agreement for IDE was signed on 5 February 2015. The revised agreement for GID is due to be signed shortly.
- 10. Postgraduate Professional Development Committee (PPDC)** **BEPS.2014.38**
The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting of the Postgraduate Professional Development Committee held on Wednesday 2 July 2014.
- 11. Senate Executive Summary**
The Committee noted the latest executive summaries from Senate.
- 12. QAEC Executive Summary (QAEC Senate Report)**
The Committee noted QAEC's latest summary report for Senate.
- 13. Dates of meetings 2014-15**
26 May 2015, 10:00, Council Room, 170 Queen's Gate – papers by 11 May
30 June 2015, 10:00, Ballroom, 58 Prince's Gate – papers by 15 June