Imperial College London

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

Unconfirmed Minutes of the meeting held on
Tuesday 17 November 2015

Present:
Dr Simon Archer, College Tutor
Dr Alessio Corti, Department of Mathematics
Dr David Dye, Department of Materials
Professor Sue Gibson, Acting Vice Provost (Education) – Chair
Professor Lidia Lonergan, Department of Earth Science & Engineering
Professor Tony Magee, Deputy Director of the Graduate School
Professor Stefan Maier, Department of Physics
Dr Marco Mongiello, Business School
Dr Fariba Sadri, Department of Computing
Dr Dominic Southgate, Department of Design Engineering
Professor Marek Sergot, College Consul (Engineering & Business School)
Dr Nick Voulvoulis, Centre for Environmental Policy

In attendance:
Mr Daniel Smith, Assistant Registrar (Quality Assurance & Enhancement) – Secretary
Mr Matthew Sweeting, Quality Assurance Administrator

Apologies:
Dr Laura Barter, Department of Chemistry
Professor Sergei Chernyshenko, Department of Aeronautics
Professor Bassam Izzuddin, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
Mr Liu Cheng Guo, President, Graduate Students' Union
Professor Andrew Holmes, Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering
Professor Kang Li, Department of Chemical Engineering
Mr Hangyu Li, Academic and Welfare Officer (Engineering)
Ms Yiya Mao, Academic and Welfare Officer (Business)
Dr Darryl Overby, Department of Bioengineering
Mr Dean Pateman, Academic Registrar
Mr Chun-Yin San, Deputy President (Education), Imperial College Union
Ms Mengjie Shen, Academic and Welfare Officer (Physical Sciences)
Professor John Seddon, College Consul (Natural Sciences)
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. **Terms of Reference 2015/16**   BEPS.2015.01
   The Committee noted the terms of reference for the academic year 2015/16 as approved by Senate.

2.1   It was noted that, pending approval by Senate, the new Committee governance structure proposed by the Academic Standards Framework Steering Group would be implemented from January 2016. The new Committee governance structure would result in the dissolution of the Master's Quality Committees with their responsibilities being delegated between the Faculty Education Committees and the Programme Committee.

3.   Minutes of the Previous Meeting   **BEPS.2015.02**
The minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2015 were confirmed with no amendments.

4.   Matters Arising from the Minutes

4.1   Minute 5.2.6: Action to review additional entry criteria
Professor Sue Gibson confirmed that this action would be taken forward by the Postgraduate Admissions Network.

5.   Modification Proposals

5.1   MRes in Fluid Dynamics Across Scales   **BEPS.2015.03**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Aeronautics to reduce the weighting of the research project from 60% to 50% for the MRes in Fluid Dynamics with immediate effect.

5.1.1   The Committee noted that the total weighting of the taught modules would also be increased from 40% to 50% and that the proposal had been recommended by the external examiner in recognition of the significant value placed on the coursework and written examinations by students.

5.1.2   The Committee noted that there were nine students currently registered on the programme. The department confirmed that all students had been consulted and agreed to the proposal.

5.1.3   The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

5.2   MSc Economics and Strategy for Business   **BEPS.2015.04**
The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to change the credit value and assessment methods associated with the modules BS1711 (Strategic Implementations) and BS1714 (Global Strategy) with immediate effect.

5.2.1   The Committee noted that the Business School wished to change the term in which the two modules were taught which would necessitate changes to the credit value and assessment. The module BS1711 (Strategic Implementation) would be given a credit value of 3.5 ECTS and would be assessed by coursework only (100%). The module BA1714 (Global Strategy) would be given a value of 5 ECTS and be assessed by a mixture of written examinations (70%) and coursework (30%).

5.2.2   The Committee noted that there were 153 students currently registered on

the programme including one student on interruption. The Business School confirmed that all students had been consulted and agreed to the proposal.

5.2.3   The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

5.3   **MSc Management**   BEPS.2015.05
The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to allow MSc Management students taking the module BS0940 (Study Abroad) to transfer the credit for use as part of the Imperial award with immediate effect.

5.3.1   The department confirmed that there were arrangements in place for students who failed a module studied at another institution and that the marks received would be mapped to the College marking scale according to College policy.

5.3.2   The Committee noted that there were 175 students currently registered on the programme including one student on interruption. The department confirmed that all students had been advised of the proposal.

5.3.3   The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

5.4   **Full-time MBA**   BEPS.2015.06
The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to change the assessment methods associated with the modules BS0521 (Operations) and BS5008 (Innovation and Entrepreneurship) with immediate effect.

5.4.1   The Committee noted that the department wished to make the modules assessed by coursework only in order to reduce the number of written examinations across the programme as a whole.

5.4.2   The Committee noted that there were 56 students currently registered on the programme. The department confirmed that all students had been advised of the proposal.

5.4.3   The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

5.5   **MSc in Finance and Accounting**   BEPS.2015.07
The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to separate the module BS2002 (Management Accounting and Corporate Strategy) into two separate modules and to adjust the credit values of the modules BS2001 (Advanced Financial Engineering), BS2015 (Investments and Portfolio Management) and BS2017 (Financial Econometrics) with immediate effect.

5.5.2   The department noted that the proposals were developed following feedback from students and lecturers as a way to alleviate pressure during the Autumn Term.

5.5.3   The Committee noted that the new modules BS2002 (Corporate Strategy)

and BS2004 (Management Accounting) as well as the existing modules BS2001 (Advanced Financial Accounting), BS2015 (Investments and Portfolio Management) and BS2017 (Financial Econometrics) would all have a credit value of 4.2 ECTS.

5.5.4   The Committee noted that there were 84 students currently registered on the programme. The department confirmed that all students have been consulted and agreed to the proposal.

5.5.5   The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

5.6   MSc Finance (suite of programmes)   **BEPS.2015.08**
The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to introduce a written examination weighted 50% to the module BS1130 (Insurance) and to introduce coursework weighted 25% to the module BS1128 (Numerical Finance) with immediate effect.

5.6.1   The Committee noted that the modules were currently available as elective modules on the MSc Risk Management and Financial Engineering, the MSc Investment & Wealth management and the MSc Finance and Accounting.

5.6.2   The Committee noted that there were 343 students currently registered across the three programmes. The department confirmed that all students had been consulted and agreed to the changes.

5.6.3   The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

5.7   MSc Computing (specialisms)   **BEPS.2015.09**
The Committee received a proposal to change the title of the MSc Computing (Computational Management Science) and the MSc Computing (Visual information Processing) with effect from October 2016.

5.7.1   The Committee noted that the MSc Computing (Computational Management Science) would be called the MSc Computing (Computational Management) to reflect the name of the existing MEng Computing (Computational Management).

5.7.2   The Committee further noted that the MSc Computing (Visual Information Processing) would be called the MSc Computing (Visual Computing and Robotics) to reflect developments within the field and highlight the strengths of the department in robotics.

5.7.3   The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval

5.8   MA/MSc Innovation Design Engineering & MA/MSc Global Innovation   **BEPS.2015.10**
Design
The Committee received a proposal from the Dyson School of Design Engineering and the Royal College of Art to change the survey and evaluation methods for the MA/MSc Innovation Design Engineering and MA/MSc Global innovation Design with immediate effect.

5.8.1 The Committee noted that these programmes were collaborative programmes with the Royal College of Art (RCA) and students are currently surveyed by both institutions. Following feedback from students and lecturers it was proposed that only the RCA survey would be used. Individual module surveys would be administered by the programmes team.

5.8.2 The Committee noted that the results of the surveys would be provided to the Imperial College surveys team in Registry each year.

5.8.3 The Committee approved the changes to the survey and evaluation methods with immediate effect.

5.9 **Full-time MBA**
The Committee received a proposal from the Business School to introduce an exchange partnership with the University of St Gallen, Switzerland.

5.9.1 The Committee noted that out-going Imperial students from the full-time MBA would be able to use credit from modules at St Gallen towards their final degree up to a maximum of 12 ECTS. Credit for these modules would be substituted in place of credit from elective modules on the Imperial programme.

5.9.2 The Committee approved the establishment of a new student exchange partnership subject to a suitable memorandum of agreement being signed by both institutions.

5.10 **All Master's programmes in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering**   **BEPS.2015.12**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to introduce an exchange partnership with the University of Cyprus.

5.10.1 The Committee noted that there would be no credit transfer involved in the student exchange agreement.

5.10.2 The Committee approved the establishment of a new student exchange partnership subject to a suitable memorandum of agreement being signed by both institutions.

6. **Suspension and Withdrawals**

6.1 **MSc Computing for Industry (October start)**   **BEPS.2015.13**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Computing to continue to suspend the MSc Computing for Industry (4-year, part-time – G5U748) for a further year with effect from October 2016.

6.1.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.2 **MSc Computing (Distributed Systems)**   **BEPS.2015.14**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Computing to

continue to suspend the MSc Computing (Distributed Systems) – 1 year full-time – G5U15, for a further year with effect from October 2016.

6.2.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.3 **Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma and MSc Actuarial Finance**   **BEPS.2015.15**
The Committee received a proposal from the Imperial College Business School to continue to suspend the suite of Actuarial Finance programmes (N32A/N32A24/N32AC/N32AD) for a further year with effect from October 2016.

6.3.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.4 **MSc Engineering Geology for Ground Models suite**   **BEPS.2015.16**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to continue to suspend the MSc Engineering Geology for Ground Models, MSc Engineering Geology for Ground Models with Business Management, and MSc Engineering Geology for Ground Models with Sustainable Development full-time and part-time modules (H2UG/H2UG24/H2B5/H2B524/H2B6/H2B624) for one further year with effect from October 2016.

6.4.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.5 **MSc Petroleum Geophysics**   **BEPS.2015.17**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Earth Science and Engineering to continue to suspend the MSc Petroleum Geophysics (F6UM) for one further year with effect from October 2016.

6.5.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.6 **MRes Plasmonics and Metamaterials**   **BEPS.2015.18**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Physics to withdraw the MRes Plasmonics and Metamaterials (F3U9) with effect from October 2016. The programme had been replaced by the MSc in Physics with Nanophotonics.

6.6.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.7 **MSc Systems Engineering and Innovation**   **BEPS.2015.19**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to withdraw the full-time and part-time MSc Systems Engineering and Innovation (H265/H26524) with effect from October 2016. Continuing second year students would be supported to complete the programme.

6.7.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.8 **MSc Soil Mechanics – 3 year part-time version**   **BEPS.2015.20**
The Committee received proposals from the Department of Civil and

Environmental Engineering to withdraw the 3-year, part-time MSc Soil Mechanics (H2U336), MSc Soil Mechanics and Business Management (H2A436), MSc Soil Mechanics and Sustainable Development (H2A536), MSc Soil Mechanics and Engineering Seismology (H2U436), and MSc Soil Mechanics and Environmental Geotechnics (H2UN36) with effect from October 2016. There are no continuing students.

6.8.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposals to Senate for approval.

6.9 **MSc Advanced Chemical Engineering – part-time version** **BEPS.2015.21**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Chemical Engineering to withdraw the 2 year part-time MSc Advanced Chemical Engineering (H8U224) with effect from October 2016. There are no continuing students.

6.9.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.10 **MSc Communications and Signal Processing – part-time version** **BEPS.2015.22**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to withdraw the 2 year part-time MSc Communications and Signal Processing (H6U824) with effect from October 2016. There are no continuing students.

6.10.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.11 **MSc Control Systems – part-time version** **BEPS.2015.23**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to withdraw the 2-year, part-time MSc Control Systems (J9U424) with effect from October 2016. There are no continuing students.

6.11.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.12 **MSc Risk Management and Financial Engineering – part-time version** **BEPS.2015.24**
The Committee received a proposal from the Imperial College Business School to withdraw the 2 year part-time MSc Risk Management and Financial Engineering (N34GM) with effect from October 2016.

6.12.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.13 **MSc Computing (Performance Modelling)** **BEPS.2015.25**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Computing to withdraw the MSc Computing (Performance Modelling) – G5U19T with effect from October 2016.

6.13.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.14 **MSc Computing (Creative Industries)** **BEPS.2015.26**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Computing to withdraw the MSc Computing (Creative Industries) – G5U12 with effect

from October 2016.

6.14.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.15 **MSc Computing for Industry (January start)**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Computing to withdraw the MSc Computing for Industry (4-year, part-time, January start programme– G5U701) with effect from October 2016.

BEPS.2015.27

6.15.1 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval.

6.16 **Postgraduate Certificate in Industrial Pharmaceutical Chemistry**
The Committee received a proposal from the Department of Chemistry to withdraw the PG Cert in Industrial Pharmaceutical Chemistry (F1C1/F1C2/F1C3/F1C4) with effect from October 2016. Continuing students would be supported to complete the programme.

BEPS.2015.28

6.16.1 The Committee noted that the programme was a collaborative programme with GlaxoSmithKline and that the withdrawal was proposed with the support of the industrial partner and the programme's management board.

6.16.2 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to Senate for approval subject to formal variation to the collaborative agreement.

7. **Special Cases Membership**
The Committee approved the changes to the membership of Special Cases Panels for the academic year 2015/16.

BEPS.2015.29

8. **Minor Modifications Audit**
The Committee noted minor modifications made by departments during the academic year 2014/15.

BEPS.2015.30

9. **External Examiner Appointments**
The Committee noted external examiner appointments for the academic year 2015/16.

BEPS.2015.31

10. **Survey's Calendar**
The Committee noted the Surveys Calendar for the academic year 2015/16.

BEPS.2015.32

10.1 Professor Gibson recommended that suggestions regarding the timing of the PTES surveys should be raised within the faculties where they would be fed back to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee (QAEC).

11. **Chair's Report**
The Committee noted the actions taken by the Chair and Deputy Chair on behalf of the Committee since the last meeting.

BEPS.2014.33

12. **Senate Executive Summary**
The Committee noted the latest executive summaries from Senate.

13.   **QAEC Executive Summary (QAEC Senate Report)**
The Committee noted QAEC's latest summary report for Senate.

14.   **Quality Assurance Agency Updates**
The Committee noted updates, the characteristic statement for Master's Degrees and the subject benchmark statement for Mathematics, Statistics and Operations Research. The Committee also noted the publications of a new characteristic statement for qualifications involving more than one degree awarding bodies.

RESERVED AREAS OF BUSINESS

15.   **Special Cases**
There were no special cases to report.