Imperial College London

Engineering Studies Committee

Wednesday 12 March 2014
3.00pm
Drawing Room, 170 Queen's Gate
South Kensington Campus

Minutes

Present: Professor O Matar (Chairman), Dr L Craig, Dr C Ford, Dr K Fobelets, Professor L Gardner, Dr A Horsfield, Miss N Kempston, Dr P Leevers, Professor P Lindstedt, Dr P McBrien, Mr J Murphy, Dr R Palacios Nieto, Mr D Pateman, Dr M Tang, Professor N Thornhill.

In attendance: Mr R Monk [for item 4], Mr D Surtees (Secretary).

Apologies: Professor D Humphris.

Agenda Item

1. **Minutes**

   1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2013 were confirmed.

2. **Matters arising**

   2.1 There were no matters arising.

3. **Chairman's Actions**

   3.1 It was noted that the Chairman approved the nomination of Professor Greg Michaelson (Heriot-Watt University) for the MEng/BEng Electronic and Information Engineering programme in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

4. **Revising Periodic Review and Programme Monitoring**

   4.1 The Committee considered a proposal [Paper A], in response to feedback from Departments and review panels with regard to the existing periodic review and programme monitoring process. The proposals aim to simplify the existing arrangements by combining existing undergraduate and taught postgraduate review processes into a single review of taught provision. The paper also proposed a number of further considerations:
   - Consider whether MRes programmes should be reviewed with taught provision or research provision.
   - Consider whether periodic reviews should normally be scheduled in the year prior to, or the year after, an accreditation visit.
   - Consider, or seek to define, the types of professional, statutory or regulatory body that QAEC recognises in order for a programme to be treated as

'accredited' for the purposes of periodic review.

- Consider whether a five year review cycle for taught provision (UG & PGT) and a six year review cycle for postgraduate research provision (PGR) is appropriate.
- Consider defining a specific point in the academic year when periodic reviews of taught provision will normally take place.

4.2 The Committee broadly supported the proposals. Departments are invited to provide feedback to the Assistant Registrar (Senate & Academic Review) by mid-April.

## 5.	Annual Monitoring Statements

5.1 The Committee received Annual Monitoring Reports from the Departments of: Computing and Mechanical Engineering and the external examiner reports for Ancillary Mathematics. The report from the Imperial College Business School would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

5.2 Department of Computing [Paper B]
The Committee considered the Department's report and in particular noted the comments of the external examiners and the summary of the National Student Survey. The representative from the Department also drew the Committee's attention to the change in the timing of third and fourth year examinations, which now take place at the end of each term rather than at the end of the year. This change has been welcomed by the majority of students. It was also reported that students on the Joint Mathematics and Computer Science programmes would now be taking specific Mathematics courses rather than taking standard courses offered to Mathematics students.

5.3 Department of Mechanical Engineering [Paper C]
The Committee considered the Department's report and in particular noted the comments of the external examiners and the summary of the National Student Survey. The representative from the Department also highlighted a number of changes made to ensure that the failure rate in year two had fallen which included taking on a new teaching fellow who has subsequently reviewed several student interaction processes; changes to the admissions process and increased on-line support for students.

5.4 Ancillary Mathematics [Paper E]
The Committee considered the reports from the external examiners for Ancillary Mathematics.

## 6.	Reorganisation of Undergraduate Courses and Examinations

6.1 Department of Aeronautics

6.1.1 The Committee considered a proposal to establish a new five year degree programme: *MEng Aeronautical Engineering with a Year in Industry*. The purpose of this new programme is to enrich the educational experience of interested students in the current MEng degree with an additional year in an industrial placement. The taught component is the same as in the current 4-year programme, but this proposal allows students to spend a year in industry between years 3 and 4 of the degree. Only students in the MEng in Aeronautical Engineering will be allowed to transfer to this programme. The Committee was supportive of the proposal and will recommend the establishment of this new programme to Senate. The Chairman recommended that the Director of Undergraduate Studies should meet with the Assistant Registrar (Placements) to discuss implementation of the placement year.

6.1.2 The Committee noted that the Department has approved a proposal to incorporate the *Foundation Mechanics* module into the *Mechanics* module.   The Department also approved a proposal to allow students to take just one Business School option in either year three or four.

6.2 Department of Chemical Engineering

6.2.1 The Committee **approved** the renewal of the Department's exchange agreement with Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan, Stockholm [Paper G].

6.2.2 The Committee noted that the Department has approved a new module: *Contemporary Business for Engineers* which will be taught by the Business School.

6.3 Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

6.3.1 The Committee **approved** the renewal of the Department's exchange agreements with Ecole Polytechnique, Paris and KU Leuven, Belgium [Paper H].

6.3.2 The Committee noted that the Department has approved a new optional module for the fourth year MEng stream: *Topics in Large Dimensional Data Processing*. This will commence in the 2014/2015 academic year. The Department has also approved an amendment to the assessment of the second year *Mathematics* module from one two hour examination to two one and a half hour examinations.

6.4 Department of Materials

6.4.1 The Committee noted that the Department has approved a proposal to replace the first year *Business for Engineers* module with a *Computer Aided Design* module and to replace the second year *Business for Engineers* module with *Contemporary Business for Engineers*. A new module: *Nuclear Materials for Reactor Systems*, will be offered by the Materials Department for students who have completed 3 years of undergraduate study in Materials.

7.   Accreditation Report – Computing

7.1 The Committee considered two accreditation reports from BCS, the Chartered Institute of IT and the Institution of Engineering and Technology [Paper I] for the Department of Computing.

7.1.1 BCS was concerned with coverage of Ethics and Legal and Social issues within the curriculum. The Department has sent a response detailing how they deal with legal issues and BCS have now approved the accreditation.

7.1.2 IET was concerned that the pass mark was not 50% on every module. This has been addressed by the College explaining to the IET that this was not workable for Imperial. This was accepted by the IEE and they have allowed an exception for the College. IET have now approved the accreditation.

8.   Undergraduate Examination Failures

8.1 The Committee considered the annual report detailing undergraduate examination failures in 2012/2013 [Paper J]. The Committee noted that all Departments within the Faculty had rates below 10%.

9.   Student Placement Learning Policies

9.1 The Committee considered proposed modifications to the Student Placement Learning Policies and Procedures [Paper K]. The Committee was generally supportive

of the proposed modifications. Departments are asked to provide feedback direct to the Senior Assistant Registrar (Quality Assurance and Enhancement).

10. Survey Results

10.1 The Committee noted the Autumn survey results for SOLE [Paper L].

11. Senate Executive Summary

11.1 The Committee noted the Executive Summary of the meeting of Senate held on 11 December 2013 [Paper M].

12. QAEC Report

12.1 The Committee noted the Reports to Senate by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee [Papers N & O]

13. Science Studies Committee Report

13.1 The Committee noted the Reports to Senate by the Science Studies Committee [Papers P & Q].

14. Medical Studies Committee Executive Summary

14.1 The Committee noted the Executive summary of the meeting of the Medical Studies Committee held on 27 November 2013 [Paper R].

15. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 21 May 2014

16. Any other business

There was no further business.