

## **Engineering Studies Committee**

Wednesday 13 March 2013  
3.00pm  
Solar Room, 170 Queen's Gate  
South Kensington Campus

### **Minutes**

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**Present:** Professor M Sloman (Acting Chairman), Dr L Craig, Dr A Field, Dr L Gardner, Professor T Green, Dr A Horsfield, Mr D Hunt, Dr P Leever, Mr C Love, Dr R Palacios Nieto, Dr M Tang, Professor A Walden, Mr N Wheatley.

**In attendance:** Dr A Kogelbauer, Mr D Surtees (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Professor P Cheung, Professor R Jardine, Professor O Matar, Mr L Paoli, Dr E Price-Davies, Professor D Wright.

#### **Agenda Item**

#### **1. Minutes**

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2012 were confirmed.

#### **2. Matters arising**

2.1 There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Chairman's Actions**

3.1 The Chairman approved the establishment of an exchange agreement between the Department of Earth Science and Engineering and the Australian National University, Canberra [Paper A].

3.2 The Chairman recommended to Senate, the approval of a proposal from the Department of Computing for collaboration with the MA in Service Design Programme at Royal College of Art. Students on the MEng Computing and joint MEng in Mathematics and Computing programmes would be able to undertake joint group projects and selected taught courses with students from the RCA. This proposal has subsequently been approved by Senate.

3.3 The Chairman approved the continuation of Dr Timothy Henstock, external examiner for BSc/MSci Earth Science and Engineering degree programmes, following notification by Dr Henstock that he was an investigator on two NERC grant proposals currently under review – one with Professor Jo Morgan, the other with Dr Jenny Collier and Dr Saskia Goes. The Chairman noted that the nature of Geophysical research in the UK is that there are large scale collaborative projects, meaning that it was difficult

to find a credible external examiner who did not have an existing research collaboration with someone within the Department.

#### **4. Reorganisation of Undergraduate Courses and Examinations**

##### **4.1 Department of Aeronautics**

**4.1.1** The Committee noted that Department has approved the establishment of a new optional module, *Design of Experiments* [Paper B] and the replacement of the *Managerial Economics* module with *Technology, Business and the Market for Aeronautical Engineers* [Paper C].

##### **4.2 Department of Chemical Engineering**

**4.2.1** The Committee **approved** the renewal of the Department's exchange agreements [Paper D] with:

- (1) Institut National Polytechnique de Toulouse (ENSIACET), France
- (2) Universidad de Valladolid, Spain
- (3) University of Queensland, Australia

##### **4.3 Department of Earth Science and Engineering**

**4.3.1** The Committee **approved** a proposed exchange agreement with Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH), Germany [Paper E].

##### **4.4 Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering**

**4.4.1** The Committee **approved** the renewal of the Department's exchange agreements [Paper F] with:

- (1) Telecom-Paristech/Eurecom, France
- (2) KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden

##### **4.5 Department of Materials**

**4.5.1** The Committee noted the Department has approved a proposal to remove the need to perform a separate literature review from the MSE 320 Module as the research project already contains one. This will commence from the 2013-14 academic year.

##### **4.6 Imperial College Business School**

**4.6.1** The Committee **approved** a proposal to establish a new suite of modules developed to specifically enhance the student experience by updating and extending Business School electives to Engineering and Science undergraduates [Paper G].

#### **5. Undergraduate Examination Failures**

**5.1** The Committee noted the annual report detailing undergraduate examination failures in 2011/2012 [Papers H & I].

**5.2** The Committee considered action plans from the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering [Paper J] and Mechanical Engineering [Paper K]. The Committee noted that while the number of failures in the second year in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering was still above 10%, there had been a significant improvement on the previous year.

- 6. Summary of External Examiner Reports for Undergraduate Degrees in 2011-2012**
  - 6.1** The Committee considered a paper summarising issues raised by External Examiners [Paper L]. The Committee specifically asked the representative from the Department of Aeronautics to comment on item 3, regarding arrangements for the conversion of marks awarded to students from institutions abroad. In response he stated that currently there was no moderation of marks from abroad, however, the department would be reviewing marks to see if they are out of line with other marks achieved by the candidates. He also stated that he would explore with other departments how they moderate marks for year abroad students.
- 7. Integrated Master's Degrees**
  - 7.1** The Committee considered a paper from the Academic Registrar detailing options for an integrated Master's degree and associated Bachelor's degree [Paper M]. The Committee was broadly supportive of the proposal, providing that agreement could be reached with other faculties.
- 8. Key Information Sets - update**
  - 8.1** The Committee noted a paper detailing changes to KIS data for the 2013 submission [Paper N].
- 9. Accreditation Report – Mechanical Engineering**
  - 9.1** The Committee noted the Accreditation Report by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers [Paper O].
- 10. Survey Results**
  - 10.1** The Committee noted the Autumn survey results for SOLE [Paper P]. The Committee noted that participation rates in the Departments of Aeronautics and Chemical Engineering had increased substantially while those in Materials decreased.
- 11. Erasmus for All**
  - 11.1** The Committee noted a message from the European Commission regarding the new Erasmus for All programme [Paper Q].
- 12. Senate Executive Summary**
  - 12.1** The Committee noted the Executive Summary of the meetings of Senate held on 12 December 2012 [Paper R].
- 13. QAAC/QUEC Executive Summary**
  - 13.1** The Committee noted the Executive summary of the meeting of QAAC held on 20 November 2012 [Paper S], and QAEC held on 17 January 2013 [Paper T].
- 14. Science Studies Committee Executive Summary**
  - 14.1** The Committee noted the Executive summaries of the meetings of the Science Studies Committee held on 7 November 2012 [Paper U] and 5 December 2012 [Paper V].
- 15. Medical Studies Committee Executive Summary**

**15.1** The Committee noted the Executive summary of the meeting of the Medical Studies Committee held on 12 February 2013 [Paper W].

**15. Date of next meeting**

Wednesday 22 May 2013

**19. Any other business**

**19.1** A proposal was tabled by the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to teach all its mathematics modules from within the Department rather than relying on teaching from the Department of Mathematics [Paper Y]. The Committee **approved** the proposal with the timing to be confirmed through agreement between the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and the Department of Mathematics.

**19.2** The Committee noted that the Imperial College Business School had received a donation of £20.1m from Brevan Howard, which was established by Imperial alumnus Alan Howard who graduated with a BEng in Chemical Engineering in 1986.