

Engineering Studies Committee

Wednesday 21 May 2014
3.00pm
Drawing Room, 170 Queen's Gate
South Kensington Campus

Minutes

- Present:** Professor P Lindstedt (Acting Chairman), Dr L Craig, Mr J Fernando, Dr C Ford, Dr K Fobelets, Professor L Gardner, Dr A Horsfield, Dr M Jones, Miss N Kempston, Dr P Leever, Dr P McBrien, Mr J Murphy, Dr R Palacios Nieto, Dr M Tang, Professor N Thornhill, Professor D Wright.
- In attendance:** Professor P Childs [for item 3.1], Mr R Ferguson, Professor J Magee [for item 3.1], Mr S McKenney [for item 3.1], Mr D Surtees (Secretary).
- Apologies:** Dr E Price-Davies, Professor D Humphris, Professor O Matar, Mr D Pateman.

Agenda Item

1. Minutes

1.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2014 were confirmed.

2. Matters arising

2.1 The Chairman reported the deadline for feedback on the proposed Periodic Review and Programme Monitoring procedures (item 4, ESC 12/03/14) had been extended to 16 May 2014.

3. Reorganisation of Undergraduate Courses and Examinations

3.1 Dyson School of Design Engineering

3.1.1 The Chairman introduced the new proposed degree programme [Papers A & B], MEng Design Engineering, which is to be established in the new Dyson School of Design Engineering. The Committee noted that the proposal had not yet been considered by the Faculty Teaching Committee.

3.1.2 Dr Craig and Dr Horsfield, had been asked by the Chairman to review the proposal on behalf of the Committee. They identified a number of points in relation to both the student experience and the curriculum which they felt needed to be addressed. In particular whether staff were in place, had teaching space been identified and whether it offered value over and above existing provision within the Faculty.

3.1.3 With regard to the Student Experience, Dr Craig outlined a number of points within the proposal, but she also identified some issues which needed to be tweaked in order to improve the proposal. In particular she highlighted the admissions process, what system the new department would use until the College had implemented SITS and the lack of a Scheme for Award of Honours.

3.1.4 Dr Horsfield had some concern over the size of the department and in particular the relation to the amount of coursework which was being proposed. He was also concerned that those staff being appointed to positions such as Director of Undergraduate Studies, Senior Tutor and Admissions Tutor should have some feeling for the ethos of the College and not be new staff. With regard to the curriculum, Dr Horsfield, thought that the majority of the courses were good, but that one or two of them needed to be developed further.

3.1.5 The Chairman thanked Dr Craig and Dr Horsfield for their work and opened up discussion to the wider Committee.

3.1.6 The Committee concurred with the points already made. They also raised some other issues, particularly with how the new course would interact with existing provision in the Faculty. The Committee was keen to know how easy it would be for students in other departments to take courses in the School of Design Engineering and vice versa. It was also suggested that the programme could have launched as a series of joint degrees with existing programmes within the Faculty.

3.1.7 The Committee then invited representatives of the School of Design Engineering, Professor Childs and Mr McKenney, and the Faculty Dean, Professor Magee, to join the meeting.

3.1.8 Professor Magee outlined the background to the proposal for a new department and degree programme, sponsored by the Dyson Foundation. He also informed the Committee that the Provosts Board will be fully involved with the issues surrounding resourcing and space allocation for the new department. New appointments would be made to the new department, with the possibility of some joint appointments with other departments. There might also be some involvement from the Royal College of Art.

3.1.9 Professor Childs gave an overview of the types of potential students that the new course would look to recruit. While those following traditional routes to an Engineering degree would of course be considered, the new department would also look to recruit students who had a more varied A Level background which demonstrated a flare and interest in design.

3.1.10 It was noted that there was a considerable amount of compulsory courses in the proposal and that this would limit interaction with other departments. Professor Childs stated that the full set of options and electives would be developed further and he now had proposals from seven other departments to provide a wider suite of courses.

3.1.11 The representatives from the School of Design Engineering and the Faculty Dean left the meeting.

3.1.12 The Committee was broadly supportive of the proposal, but believed that there needed to be some amendments made to the proposal. The Committee therefore resolved that a Sub-Group, led by Dr Craig and Dr Horsfield, would meet with the representatives of the School of Design Engineering to work on the proposal and amend where necessary. The Secretary was asked to contact all Heads of Department within the Faculty to ask them to provide a representative for the Sub-Group. The revised proposal would then be considered at the next meeting of the Faculty Teaching Committee on 6 June. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the

Engineering Studies Committee would also review the proposal and consider under chair's action in order to forward the proposal to Senate.

3.2 Department of Aeronautics

3.2.1 The Committee **approved** a proposal to make the MEng Aeronautical Engineering with Year Abroad available for internal transfer only and to withdraw it as an offering to new entrants [Paper C].

3.2.2 The Committee noted that the Department has approved three new optional modules: *Aircraft Systems Engineering and Unmanned Vehicle Technologies*; *Emerging Technologies for Green Aviation* and *Innovation Management* [Paper D].

3.3 Department of Bioengineering

3.3.1 The Committee **approved** A proposal to establish a new degree programme: MEng Biomedical Engineering with a Year in Industry [Papers E & F]. 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.

3.4 Department of Computing

3.4.1 The Committee noted that the Department has approved seven new optional modules: *Models for Concurrent Computation*; *Computing in 2D Space*; *Information and Coding Theory*; *Medical Image Computing*; *Modal and Temporal Logic*; *Network and Web Security*; *Separation Logic: Local Reasoning about Programs* [Paper G].

4. Annual Monitoring Statements

4.1 The Committee received the Annual Monitoring Report from the Imperial College Business School. The Committee considered the Department's report and in particular noted the comments of the external examiners. The Chairman noted that a number of comments from the external examiners were quite critical. The Committee was particularly concerned about the comments relating to over generous marking and asked the Business School provide an action plan to address these concerns at the next meeting.

5. Accreditation Report – Materials

5.1 The Committee noted the draft accreditation report from the Institute of Materials Minerals and Mining [Paper I].

6. Annual Report on Degree Classifications

6.1 The Committee considered the annual report on degree classifications and noted that all departments within the Faculty were over the target of 70% combined first class and second class (upper division) target [Paper J].

7. Annual Report by Student Representatives

7.1 The Committee considered a report from the student representatives [Paper K].

8. Surveys

8.1 The Committee noted that the Student Surveys & Feedback Working Party has taken the decision to retain the current questions and scale used in the UG and PG SOLE lecturer/module evaluations for 2014-5 [Paper L].

9. Senate Executive Summary

9.1 The Committee noted the Executive Summary of the meeting of Senate held on 26 February 2014 [Paper M].

10. QAEC Report

10.1 The Committee noted the Report to Senate by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee [Paper N]

11. Medical Studies Committee Executive Summary

11.1 The Committee noted the Executive summary of the meeting of the Medical Studies Committee held on 12 February 2014 [Paper R].

12. Date of next meetings

Wednesday 12 November 2014

Wednesday 11 March 2015

Wednesday 27 May 2015

13. Any other business

The representative from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering reported that the Department had approved a change in assessment of the *Machine Learning and Computer Vision* module; the suspension of the *Robotics* and *Optical communications* modules for the 2014/15 academic year.