

Engineering Studies Committee

Wednesday 11 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 A Horsfield, Dr P Leever, Professor P Lindstedt, Dr P McBrien, Dr R Palacios Nieto, Dr M Bluck, Dr A Phillips, Dr P Power, Dr M Tang, Dr K Fobelets, Professor L Gardner, Dr M Jones, Professor N Thornhill.

In attendance: , Mr T Bailey, Mr J Balloch

Apologies: Professor D Humphris, Mr D Pateman, Mr P Loose, Professor D Wright, Professor P Cheung, Mr J Fernando, Dr E Price-Davies, Professor P Childs

Agenda Item

1 Minutes

1.1 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 12 November 2014 were confirmed.

2 Matters Arising

2.1 The action point regarding the Committee's concerns over the format and length of the annual monitoring statements and a Registry review of the annual monitoring statements was carried over to the 27th May 2015 meeting for the Academic Registrar to comment on.

2.2 The action point regarding the Chair to highlight timetabling issues with Vice Provost (Education) with Mechanical Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Aeronautics were the Departments which had been most affected was carried over to the 27th May 2015 meeting.

2.3 The action point of the summary for all external examiners reports included with the main reports added as appendices was carried over to the 27th May 2015 meeting for the Academic Registrar to comment on.

3 Chair's Action

3.1 The Chair **approved** Bioengineering's plan to withdraw advertisement of their

BEng offering upon entry.

4 Annual Monitoring Statements

4.1 The board considered Annual Monitoring statements from the Centre for Co-Curricular Studies and Chemical Engineering.

4.2 Centre for Co-Curricular Studies [Paper A]

The Committee considered the Department's report and noted the large number of students registering for the courses and this was reflected in positive SOLE and external examiner feedback. It was remarked that the Centre had experienced challenges over timetabling courses due to a lack of available teaching space. It was also reported that the Introduction to Business course delivery had changed to include a simulation exercise which will involve students working in groups of 6-8 across the course.

4.3 Chemical Engineering [Paper B]

The Committee considered the Department's report and noted positive external examiner feedback and implementation of an action plan from the outcome of National Student Survey feedback. The external examiner reported that the present class boundaries do not satisfactorily identify the very best students and the Department was exploring the use of the Dean's list. The representative from the Department explained that the high award performance was due to the rigorous practices applied by the examination board to require students to withdraw from the programme if their performance is very weak. It was reported that the high response of N/A from the SOLE feedback was caused by the use of Graduate Teaching Assistants and that the SOLE data breakdown was not informative at a top level.

5 Modifications to Undergraduate Programmes

5.1 Earth Science and Engineering

5.1.1 The Committee **approved** the renewal of the Department's exchange agreement with the University of Strasbourg, France [Paper C].

5.2 Aeronautics

5.2.1 The Committee **considered** a proposal to introduce new full-time *MEng in Aeronautics with Spacecraft Engineering* with effect from October 2016.

5.2.2 The proposal was a modification to the existing H401 programme which will result in the introduction of an additional new award with the addition of three new modules and space-related final year project [Paper D]

5.2.3 The proposal would allow students to specialise from the 3rd year with the development of internships with the European Space Agency and building links with visiting professors and the Harwell Space Campus in Oxfordshire. The proposal was looking at 10 additional students and the appointment of a Professor of Space.

5.2.4 The Committee was supportive of the proposal and will recommend the establishment of this new programme to Senate. The Committee recommended that Dr R Palacios Nieto discuss with contacts in Mechanical Engineering who

have previous experience with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

5.3 Bioengineering

5.3.1 The Committee **considered** a proposal to introduce new internal stream on the full-time MEng in Biomedical Engineering with effect from October 2015.

5.3.2 The proposal is a modification of the existing programme [**Papers E and F**]. There is no new taught material on the programme. The Committee noted that the proposal added a third internal general pathway option for students who do not want to specialise and are forced to drop to the BEng award.

5.3.3 The Committee was supportive of the proposal and will recommend the modification of this programme to Senate.

6 Engineering Subject Benchmark Statement

6.1 The Committee noted the publication of the Engineering Subject Benchmark Statement by the QAA in February 2015 [**Paper G**].

7 Survey Results

7.1 The Committee noted the survey results for Undergraduate SOLE autumn 2014 [**Paper H**].

8 Consultation on the Future of Quality Assessment Arrangements

8.1 The Committee noted the College's response to HEFCE's review of Quality Assessment Arrangements. [**Paper I**]

9 Qualifications Awarded by Two or More Degree Awarding Bodies

9.1 The Committee noted the College's response to the QAA's consultation. [**Paper J**].

10 Publication of UK frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies

The Committee noted that the Quality Assurance Agency QAA has now published an updated and revised version of the UK frameworks for higher education qualifications. These are the principal national reference points for academic standards in higher education and are formal components of Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education (Quality Code)

The document brings together the two frameworks into a single document:

- *The framework for higher education qualifications of degree-awarding bodies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ)*
- *The framework for qualifications of higher education institutions in Scotland (FHEQIS)*

[The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies](#). This document will become a reference point for the purpose of reviews carried out by QAA from August 2015.

11 Senate Executive Summary

The Committee noted the Executive Summary of the meetings of Senate held on 29th October 2014 [**Paper K**] and 10 December 2014 [**Paper L**].

12 QAEC Executive Summary

The Committee noted the Reports by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee to Senate [**Papers M and N**].

13 Medical Studies Committee Executive Summary

The Committee noted the Report by the Medical Studies Committee. [**Paper O**]

14 Dates of Next Meeting

Wednesday 27 May 2015

15 Any other business

15.1 The Chair thanked Mr T Bailey for his brief work as Secretary for the Committee and wished him well for the future.