



Science Studies Committee
18 February 2015
The Boardroom – 58 Princes Gate
South Kensington Campus

Minutes

Present: Professor A Parry (Chair), Professor John Seddon, Dr B Duncombe, Dr R Forsythe, Professor J Mestel, Professor S Curry, Dr E Price-Davies, Mr J Fernando, Professor J de Mello, Miss Z Hsu, Mr P Loose.

In Attendance: Miss K Coffield (Secretary)

1 Apologies for Absence

1.1 Received: Dr S Archer; Professor D Wright.

2 Minutes

2.1 Approved: Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 November 2014 (**Paper 1**).

3 Matters Arising

3.1 AP (Chair) confirmed that the Committee's suggestions for improvements to the process for review of annual monitoring data had been fed back to the Academic Registrar for consideration.

4 Chair's Action

Noted: That the following items have been approved under Chair's Action since the previous meeting of the Committee:

4.1 Department of Mathematics

A small addition to the Department's official response in its External Examiner Report on Undergraduate Programmes.

4.2 Department of Chemistry

The appointment of Professor Manfred Bochmann (University of East Anglia) as external examiner for 2014/15.

4.3 Department of Physics

The appointment of Professor Charles Adams (Durham University) as external examiner for 2014/15.

5 Senate Summary Report

- 5.1 Received and Noted: The summary reports from the meetings of the Senate held on 29 October and 10 December 2014 (**Papers 2a and 2b**).

6 Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee Summary Report

- 6.1 Received and Noted: The summary report of the meeting of the QAEC held on the 11 November 2014 (**Paper 3**).

7 Engineering Studies Committee Summary Report

- 7.1 Received and Noted: The summary report of the meeting of the Engineering Studies Committee held on 12 November 2014 (**Paper 4**).

8 Medical Studies Committee Summary Report

- 8.1 Received and Noted: The summary report of the meeting of the Medical Studies Committee held on 26 November 2014 (**Paper 5**).

9 Approval and Renewal of Exchange AgreementsDepartment of Life Sciences

- 9.1 Approved: A proposal to establish a new student exchange link with the University of Copenhagen, Denmark (**paper 6**).
- 9.2 Approved: A proposal to establish a new student exchange link with the University of Vienna, Austria (**paper 7**).

10 Consultation on the Future of Quality Assessment Arrangements

- 10.1 Discussed: formulating a College response to HEFCE's review of Quality Assessment Arrangements. The Committee was satisfied with the draft comments and had nothing to add.

11 Qualifications Awarded by Two or More Degree Awarding Bodies

- 11.1 Considered: a draft response to the QAA's consultation on the new document (**paper 8**).
- 11.2 The Committee was satisfied with the draft comments and had nothing to add.

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

- 12.1 Noted: The publication of QAA's updated and revised version of the UK frameworks for higher education qualifications.

13 Modifications to Undergraduate Programmes of Study**Department of Chemistry**

13.1 Considered: Amendments proposed by the Department to the final year of its integrated Masters programmes where the final year is based in the Department only. The amendments would take effect from 2015/16 (**paper 9**).

13.2 In principal the Committee had no objections to the proposal. However, full documentation would be required before full approval can be given. The DUGS for Chemistry will prepare this documentation and discuss requirements further with the Academic Registrar. The Committee agreed that the proposal can then be considered further, and approved if appropriate, through Chair's Action or at the next meeting of the Committee.

13.3 Imperial College Business School

13.4 Considered: Amendments proposed by the School to the assessment weightings for the BS0606 Entrepreneurship module, to take effect immediately.

13.5 The Committee felt it was essential to get the views of the external examiners before this could be approved. It became apparent during discussion that the module was to begin the week following the meeting. On this basis the Committee rejected the proposal at this stage, and it was agreed that the representative for the Business School would discuss the matter further with the School and possibly present a revised proposal in time for the running of this module in the next academic session.

13.6 Department of Mathematics

13.7 Considered: A proposal from the Department to introduce a new optional module: M3HP Introduction to High Performance Computing to its BSc Mathematics/MSci Mathematics programmes, with effect from 2015/16.

13.8 In principal the Committee had no objections to the proposal. However, more complete documentation would be required before full approval can be given. The DUGS for Mathematics will prepare this documentation and then seek final approval through Chair's Action.

14 Undergraduate Annual Monitoring

14.1 Received: The undergraduate annual monitoring report from the Centre for Co-Curricular Studies (**paper 10**).

14.2 The Committee noted that the report was very positive but had no specific comments or concerns.

15 Autumn Term 2014 UG SOLE lecturer/modules results

15.1 Considered: The Autumn Term 2014 UG SOLE lecturer/modules results (**paper 11**).

15.2 The Committee discussed the main points of the paper and had no comments to feed back.

16 Any Other Business

16.1 None.

17 Date of next meeting

17.1 Noted: The date of the next meeting of the Science Studies Committee is 3 June 2015, 12.15pm in the Boardroom – 58 Princes Gate.

K Coffield
March 2015