

Open Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 8 July 2008 at 4 Mill Lane



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Board of Graduate Studies

Present: Prof WA Brown (Chair), Dr W Allison, Prof M Blamire, Mr W Bortrick, Dr GMW Cook, Dr LRR Gelsthorpe, Prof J Heal, Dr CR Hiley, Mr S Mtimbiri, Prof SK Rankin, Prof BJ Sahakian, Mr MR Younger with Dr K Maxwell as Secretary and Mr P Carr, Dr LM Biggs and Ms SJ Pickard in attendance.

Apologies: Prof RG Osborne, Dr J Runde,

Professor PC Hewett is on sabbatical leave

3263 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting on 10th June 2008 were signed as a true record.

3264 Expressions of interest

There were no reported expressions of interest.

Matters requiring discussion

3265 Board Membership

The Board welcomed Mr Mtimbiri, the new president of the Graduate Union and Mr Bortrick, the new student representative on the General Board.

3266 Annual Report of the Hardship Awards of the Board of Graduate Studies and the Lundgren Research Awards

The Board approved the Report and agreed that the new scheme whereby applications are considered outside a Committee structure was working well and should be continued.

3267 Applications for new MPhil courses

The Board approved the application for a new MPhil in Advanced Computer Science with effect of 1st October 2009 (Paper 3301 refers) and a new MPhil in Environmental Science (Paper 3304 refers) with effect of 1st October 2009.

Action: Secretary

3268 External Examiners' reports 2006-07
(Paper 3303 refers)

The Board approved the report and recommended that:

- 1) external examiners should be made aware of procedures relating to suspected plagiarism in advance of the examination;
- 2) the relevant QAA precepts should be included in the guidelines for examiners;
- 3) a common MPhil marking scheme should be adopted as soon as possible.

The Board requested that the Secretary work with the Education Section and the Secretary of the Board of Examinations to streamline procedures relating to graduate examinations.

3269 Collection and data sharing amongst Russell Group Universities

On the basis that annual data is already published and available in the public domain, the Board agreed that graduate admissions data could be provided and shared by the Russell Group.

Action: BGS Head of Admissions

3270 University Statement on plagiarism
(Papers 3305 & 3306 refer)

The Board approved the proposed statement and recommended that the new plagiarism website, together with any other information which is distributed, should:

- 1) distinguish between poor scholarship, which is not a deliberate act as opposed to a breach of academic integrity, which is a deliberate act;
- 2) provide examples of penalties;
- 3) provide subject-specific examples of plagiarism.

Action: Education Section

3271 Points Based Immigration System: reporting requirements

The Board agreed that whilst in principle it was a good idea that all students should formally enrol at the start of each term, in practice this may create a burden on Colleges. It was agreed that since enrolment for overseas students would be mandatory under the Point Based Immigration System this should be encouraged but that the requirement for home/EU students to enrol should be referred to the Graduate Tutors' Committee.

The Board agreed that it was not feasible to expect supervisors to submit termly reports using the current version of CamGRAD and asked the

Secretary to contact the Head of MISD to discuss possible improvements to the system.

Action: Secretary

3272 Application for renewal of Non-University Institution status: Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute

(Paper 3320 refers)

The Board noted the quality of the application was pleased to renew NUI status to the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute.

Action: Secretary

3273 Proposed change to assessment

(Paper 3336 refers)

The Board agreed the proposed change in the assessment for module 5 of the MSt in Social Enterprise and Community Development with effect of 1st October 2008.

Action: Secretary

3274 Proposed change to course structure

(Paper 3337 refers)

The Board approved the revised course structure for the MPhil in History, Sociology and Philosophy of Science, Technology and Medicine with effect of 1st October 2009.

Action: Secretary

3275 Modifications to word limits

(Paper 3365 refers)

The Board approved the request for modifications to the word limits for the MPhil in Innovation, Strategy & Organisation and the MPhil in Financial Research & Management Science with effect of 1st October 2008.

Action: Secretary

3276 Request to remit University Composition Fee by 50%

(Paper 3369 refers)

The Board approved the request from the Department of Architecture, that students in the second year of the MPhil (B) in Environmental Design and who are in placement, should be liable for 50% of the full time University Composition Fee.

Action: Secretary