

Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 19 April, 2011



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Board of Graduate Studies

Present: Professor Rallison (Chairman), Professor Barker, Dr Cook, Professor Gelsthorpe, Professor Heal, Professor Hewett, Dr Lasenby, Dr Padman, Dr Sargan and Mr Ward. Dr Maxwell attended as Secretary with Mrs Benton, Ms Wilkinson, Ms James and Ms Pickard in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Professor Cardwell, Professor Coakley, Professor Goldhill and Dr Hiley.

3746 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March were approved subject to an addition to minute 3720 to record that concern had been expressed by the Board as to whether the standard of the marking had been appropriate in light of the adoption of the common marking scheme.

3747 **Declarations of interest**

No declarations of interest were expressed.

Matters for discussion

3748 **The role and future of the Board of Graduate Studies**
(Papers 4368 and 4413)

The Board received the discussion paper and noted the proposed changes:

1. The Education Committee, rather than the Board of Graduate Studies consider all matters relating to
 - a) graduate educational provision (e.g.):
 - approval of, changes to and discontinuation of courses
 - consideration of requests for new graduate level degrees
 - Consideration of changes to those courses which require registration as a graduate student.

- b) Quality assurance (e.g.):
 - Monitoring of External Examiners' reports
 - PRES/PTES
 - Compliance with and review of the Code of Practice for research degrees.

- c) Educational Policy (e.g.)
 - Master's student numbers
 - Plagiarism
 - Transferable skills
 - Employability

Mrs Benton reported that the Education Committee would receive the minutes from the PAC, the Transferable Skills Steering Group and the MSt Liaison Group in lieu of the Board of Graduate Studies.

Mrs Benton further advised that Membership of the Board of Graduate Studies would be reduced and that the Education Committee would be augmented by a second appointee from the Board of Graduate Studies and a graduate student representative.

The Board endorsed the proposed changes and the required changes to the regulations.

Action: Education Committee

3749 **Cambridge International Scholarships Competition (CISS)**
(Paper 4414 and 4415)

Professor Hewett reported that in total, 80 Cambridge International Scholarships were announced to successful students on 4 April 2011. The Board received the report of the 2011 competition, endorsed the Committee's recommendations for the 2012 competition and thanked the CISS Committee and the Board's administrative staff.

3750 **Changes to student visas**
(Paper 4416)

The Board received a paper submitted by the Head of the PBI Office which summarised the main changes to student visas resulting from the Governments recent review of Tier 4.

The Board noted that:

1. The UKBA English Language requirement will be raised, but will remain below that required for admission to Cambridge. Concern was expressed over the countries the UKBA listed as having

English as the first language which does not correspond to that used by the University;

2. It appears that students will not be allowed to bring dependants for undergraduate courses and post graduate courses of less than twelve months duration. Concern was expressed that such a restriction is unreasonable and may be discriminatory;
3. The maximum total period of leave will be five years for study at undergraduate and post graduate level. The Board asked the Secretary to clarify the time-limits to be imposed on PhD students.

Action: Secretary

3751 **Report of the Bursary Scheme: School of Humanities & Social Sciences**

(Paper 4417)

The Board received the annual reports of the School's Bursary scheme for the academic years 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Concern was expressed that 7.5% of the additional fee income had been allocated for bursaries whereas it had been anticipated that this figure should be 15%.

It was agreed that the Secretary would contact the School for clarification.

Action: Secretary

3752 **Request to change course length: MPhil in Industrial Systems, Manufacture and Management**

(Paper 4418)

The Board approved the proposal to increase the course length from nine to eleven months with effect from October 2012. It noted that the Degree Committee for the Faculty of Engineering also intend to introduce a premium fee for the course.

Action: Secretary

3753 **Request to amend the special regulations: MPhil in Scientific Computing**

(Paper 4419)

The Board approved the request to amend the special regulations for the MPhil in Scientific Computing with immediate effect.

Action: Secretary

3754 **Request to amend the special regulations: MSt in International Relations**
(Paper 4420)

The Board approved the request to amend the special regulations with effect from 1 September 2011.

Action: Secretary

3755 **Response to External Examiner's report: MSt in Local and Regional History**
(Papers 3992 and 4421)

The Board was satisfied that the Degree Committee had addressed the External Examiner's concerns, but agreed the following:

1. The Degree Committee should be asked to consider whether the first year work should contribute at least in some part, to the final assessment for the degree;
2. The Degree Committee should be asked to consider the introduction of an exit qualification at the end of the first year;
3. The Examiners' guidelines for Masters courses should be amended to reflect the University's policy that re-submission and re-sits of examinations were not permitted.

Action: Secretary

Action: Head of Educational and Student Policy

3756 **Proposal for the introduction of part-time Diplomas in Legal Studies and International Law**
(Paper 4422)

The Board approved the proposal for the introduction of the Diploma in Legal Studies and the Diploma in International Law on a part-time basis with effect from 1 January 2012.

Action: University Draftsman

3757 **Designation of principal and co-supervisor of Non-University Institution (NUI) students in CamSIS**
(Paper 4423 and 4424)

The Board did not support the proposal to designate the co-supervisor as the principal supervisor in CamSIS and for the NUI supervisor to be designated as the "OTC- other Supervisor. It noted that in the longer term it will be possible to hold the relevant data against a unique Supervisor record but that in the short term, the Board's office should work with the Student Statistics Office to supply the necessary data.

Action: Secretary