

Open Business

minutes

**Board Meeting on 13 June 2006 held in the
CRASSH buildings, 17 Mill Lane**



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**

Board of Graduate Studies

Present: Dr PC Hewett (Chair), Mr A Broadbent, Dr GMW Cook, Professor MJ Daunton, Dr LRR Gelsthorpe, Professor ML Jacobus, Professor SK Rankin, Dr F Leeper, Professor BJ Sahakian with Dr LE Friday as Secretary, Ms L Burton and Mrs L Whitebread

Apologies were received from Professor G Amaratunga, Professor LF Gladden, Dr LEA Howe, & Dr K Maxwell.

Professor WA Brown, Professor GP Hawthorn, Professor RG Osborne and Dr J Runde were on sabbatical leave.

1033 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2006 were signed as a correct record.

Matters for report

1034 QAA special review of postgraduate research degree programmes (Papers 2301 and 2302 refer)

The Board noted that the University's provision had been deemed 'satisfactory'. The review had welcomed the draft *Code of Practice* and had lent weight to some of the changes set out in it, which should be conducive to the further development of good practice.

1035 Private Loans for UK students: proposal for a pilot scheme

The University had agreed to participate in the pilot scheme with respect to graduate students only; the Board would administer the scheme and be the lender's sole point of contact with the University for the pilot year.

1036 Charges for paper applications

The Secretary noted that it was now too late to introduce charges for paper applications for 2007 entry. The matter would be reconsidered for 2008 entry. She agreed to provide some costings to inform the discussion.

Matters requiring discussion

1037 ESRC review of research training: response to the Training Development Board's report
(Papers 2303 and 2304 refer)

The Board welcomed the information provided by Faculties about recent developments in graduate provision in the social sciences in their Faculty; these responses would be incorporated in the institutional response to the TDB's request for information about progress since their visit.

1038 AHRC review of studentship competition
(Papers 2311, 2312 and 2328 refer)

The Board noted that AHRC were again reviewing their studentship competition procedures. The Secretary had asked Faculties to comment on the existing competition and to reflect on whether a different model, based on a quota of some sort, might be better; she would be attending the AHRC's consultation meeting and would convey the results.

1039 Postgraduate Research Experience Survey
(Paper 2332 refers)

It was agreed not to participate in the pilot survey, which was to be conducted with very short notice at a particularly busy time.

1040 Examination for the MPhil in Modern European History
(Paper 2299 refers)

The Board agreed the proposed change to the coursework for this degree.

1041 Examination for the Certificate in Postgraduate Studies in History
(Paper 2300 refers)

The Board agreed the proposed changes to the CPGS. The practice of using the CPGS as an alternative 'endpoint' for MPhil and doctoral students was commended and agreed to return to the discussion of the future of the CPGS in the wider scheme of routes to the PhD.

It was agreed that the Faculty should delete the reference to the Tripos in their rubric, since the comparison was unhelpful and confusing, and that any remaining reference to Tripos standards be removed for the Board's literature.

1042 Examination for the MPhil in GIS and Remote Sensing
(Paper 2308 refers)

The Board were unclear as to why the Degree Committee wished to reduce the upper word limit of the essays, given that this diverged from the other courses offered by the Faculty, and the Secretary was asked to seek clarification.

1043 Examination for the MPhil in Technology Policy
(Paper 2310 refers)

The Board agreed that the number of modules required for the degree be reduced with effect from 2006-07.

1044 Examination for the Diploma in Economics: change of paper title
(Paper 2323 refers)

The Board agreed the change of paper title with effect from October 2006.