



## FACULTY BOARD OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

A meeting was held on **Friday 12 February 2016**  
in the Committee Room, Hoyle Building, Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road

There were present: Dr P Barker, Professor SM Best, Professor M Blamire, Ms M Danowska, Dr C Ducati, Professor MJ Duer, Professor GF Gilmore (Chairman), Professor CA Haniff, Dr HP Hughes, Mrs M Howe (Secretary), Dr HRN Jones, Dr KM Knowles, Mr R Parthipan, Dr JM Riley, Ms S Sharma.

Apologies were received from: Professor AC Fabian, Dr W Nolan, Professor MA Parker, Professor JA Pyle

### MINUTES

#### Unreserved Business

16201 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2016 were approved.

16202 **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising.

16203 **Board Membership**

i) **Observers from other Faculty Boards**

The Board noted that Dr Adam Strange had been re-appointed as Observer for the Faculty Board of Earth Sciences and Geography for 2016. The observers for Biology and the Syndicate of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology were still to be confirmed.

ii) **Co-option of Board member in Class (c)**

The Board approved the co-option of Professor John Richer as a member in Class (c) until 31 December 2016.

16204 **Supporting Disabled Students**

The Board received as Paper FB/16204 a pledge proposed by CUSU to support disabled students. One aim of the pledge was that inclusive teaching would be the default. The Departments had considered the document which had also been discussed at School level. Concerns had been expressed that it did not appear to be aligned with the University's Disability Resource Centre statement. Concern was also expressed about pledging to avoid 'unstructured learning', as for example in Part III Astrophysics this was actually a fundamental requirement. There were also specific requirements around laboratory conditions which were not addressed by the CUSU document but were covered by the University's policy. The Board was in principle very supportive of students with disabilities but did not wish to create internal contradictions and agreed Mr Parthipan as Student Representative should be provided with a written response to convey to CUSU.

The Board noted that Departments only received information about students with disabilities, including suggestions about support which would help them, if students had been to the DRC, had been assessed, and had agreed to share the information.

**16205 MAST in Materials Science**

The Board received, as Paper FB/16205, the ATAS list of possible modules for 2016-17 for the MAST in Materials Science. The list was approved.

**16206 Students' issues**

Mr Parthipan requested the Board's support for the filming of lectures to be uploaded to Moodle. This was already being tried by the Department of Chemistry and the success of the process was being analysed by the Department. There would be advantages for students with Specific Learning Difficulties, for Jewish students who wished not to attend lectures on Saturdays, and for all students for revision purposes or if they had had reason to miss the original lecture. It was agreed that technologically such filming and sharing had been possible for quite some time, but recorded lectures were very different from lectures given face to face, and most lecturers were unwilling to allow unedited lectures to be made available. Editing lectures was extremely time-consuming, and lecturers would be held to account for whatever they said no matter how much the original lecture might be edited subsequently by others. There were also copyright issues on lecture content, and because this was not currently something commonly done it presented a significant workload for technicians. The Russell Group of Universities was in the process of justifying the need for live teaching rather than MOOCs and it was important that Cambridge remained in line with its fellow institutions. While the Board did not endorse support for filming of all lectures, it agreed that it was a good thing to do in special cases.

**16207 Any other business**

There was none.