

**FACULTY BOARD OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY**

A meeting was held on Friday 26 October 2012 in the Hoyle Committee Room, Institute of Astronomy.

There were present: Professor GF Gilmore (Chair), Mrs VR Bennett (Secretary), Dr C Ducati, Dr MJ Duer, Mr RAC Hay, Professor PC Hewett, Dr HRN Jones, Dr JM Riley, Professor D Ritchie, and Professor WJ Stirling

Apologies were received from: Professor C Abell, Professor SM Best, Professor GT Burstein, Professor D Frenkel, Professor AL Greer, Dr W Nolan, Professor M Thomson, and Mr V Oleinikovas.

MINUTES**Unreserved Business**

- 12601 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2012 were approved.
- 12602 **Matters arising from the minutes**
There were none.
- 12603 **Election of the Chairman of the Faculty Board for 2013**
Mr Hay took the Chair for this item. Professor Gilmore was elected for a further year.
- 12604 **Appointment of a member of the Council of the School of the Physical Sciences**
Mr Hay took the Chair for this item. The Faculty Board reappointed Professor GF Gilmore as its representative on the Council of the School of the Physical Sciences for the calendar year 2013.
- 12605 **Nominations for a member of the Faculty Board in class (b)**
The Faculty Board agreed to propose to the General Board and Council the following three names for this vacancy, reflecting the full range of potential candidates, including representatives from both sexes: Dr Riley, Mrs Bennett and Dr Jones.
- *12606 **Student Elections 2012**
It was noted that elections for the student members of Faculty Boards would be held on Tuesday, 27 November 2012, with nominations closing a week before.

- *12607 **Co-option of members of the Faculty Board in class (d)**
 It was noted that the following nominations would be approved at the November meeting, depending on the outcome of item 12605 above: Mrs VR Bennett, Dr C Ducati, and Dr HRN Jones.
- 12608 **Observers on other Faculty Boards**
 The following were appointed as observers on other Faculty Boards:
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|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Biology | Dr MJ Duer |
| Earth Sciences and Geography | Mrs VR Bennett |
| Engineering | Professor GT Burstein |
| Mathematics | Professor M Thomson |
- *12609 **QAA Institutional Review of England and Northern Ireland (IRENI)**
 The Board received, for information, as paper FB/12609, a letter and briefing note from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education regarding the QAA visit scheduled for 22-23 January and 4-8 March 2013. It was noted that Heads of Department in the Faculty had already been sent copies of the letter.
- 12610 **Learning and Teaching Reviews 2010-11: Department of Physics and Faculty of Mathematics (minute 11404)**
 The Board received, for information, as paper FB/12610, a letter from the Deputy Head of Educational and Student Policy referring the review of the provision of mathematics to the NST Management Committee, in line with the comments made by the Faculty Board at its meeting of 1 July 2011.
- 12611 **Learning and Teaching Review of the Department of Chemistry**
 The Board received, as paper FB/12611, a copy of the report of the Review Committee for the Department of Chemistry. The Chairman congratulated the Department on a generally very positive report.
- However, it was noted that there continued to be structural issues relating to heavy reliance on a small number of University Teaching Officers and Teaching Fellows to deliver the undergraduate teaching. Dr Duer reported that this was already well recognised in the Department, and was being addressed. In particular the issues of the role of and career development for Teaching Fellows had been raised both within the Planning Round process and at Pro-Vice-Chancellor level. It was noted that the Director of Teaching, Dr Keeler, would be writing the departmental response in due course.
- 12612 **Committee of Management for the Natural Sciences Tripos**
 The Board received as paper FB/12612, a copy of the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2012.
- Professor Ritchie reported on the discussion of item 656) Mathematics Teaching in the Natural Sciences Tripos (see also minute 12610 above). The key difficulties related to the discrepancy between the A level maths curriculum, the Part IA maths course content, and the different maths knowledge required for the NST biological and physical sciences subjects. An independent review had been proposed.

The Faculty Board had already agreed at its meeting on 1 July 2011 that an independent review was needed, and strongly supported this suggestion, with the review committee membership to include a representative from a department outside the NST (eg from the Department of Engineering).

It was agreed that the Secretary would write on behalf of the Board to the NST Management Committee Secretary endorsing the suggestion of a review in these terms.

12613 **Students' issues**
 There were none.

12614 **Any other business**
 There was none.

Date of next meeting: Friday, 23 November 2012 at 14:15