



# UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

## FACULTY BOARD OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

A meeting was held on **Friday 20 January 2017**  
in the Committee Room, Hoyle Building, Institute of Astronomy, Madingley Road

There were present: Dr P Barker, Dr R Batley, Professor M Blamire, Dr C Ducati, Professor MJ Duer, Professor AC Fabian, Professor GF Gilmore (Chairman), Professor CA Haniff, Mrs M Howe (Secretary), Dr HP Hughes, Dr HRN Jones, Dr KM Knowles.  
Professor P Townsend (Observer – Mathematics)

Apologies were received from: Professor SM Best, Dr W Nolan, Professor MA Parker, Professor JA Pyle and Professor T Wilkinson (Observer – Engineering)

### MINUTES

The Chairman welcomed Dr Batley and the new student representatives to the meeting.

#### Unreserved Business

- 17101     **Minutes**  
The minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2016 were approved.
- 17102     **Matters arising from the minutes**  
There were no matters arising.
- 17103     **Membership**
- i.    Faculty Board membership in class (b) (minute 16605)  
The Board noted that the Council, on the recommendation of the General Board, had agreed to appoint Dr JR Batley to replace Dr J Riley from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. Professor Batley was welcomed to the Board.
  - ii.   Faculty Board membership in class (d) (minute 16606)  
The Faculty Board approved the co-option of Dr C Ducati, Mrs M Howe and Dr HRN Jones to serve for the calendar year.
  - iii.   Observers
    - a) The Board noted that Professor Paul Townsend had been re-appointed as the observer for the Faculty Board of Mathematics.
- 17104     Degree Classification Consultation (Minute 16705)  
A response had been received from the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy (paper FB/17104). The response was considered by the Board to be well thought-out and consistent with the recent tenor of discussions across the Departments. It was clear the Department wished to avoid discouraging students from trying new things in their first year.
- 17105     **Students' issues**  
The new student representatives raised the following issues:

- Recording of lectures: there was puzzlement among undergraduates about why Chemistry was offering recorded lectures but other departments were not. It was explained that it was technically and financially difficult to achieve and there were complications such as copyright issues. However this had been requested by students and the University recognised that it was the way forward, and certain Departments were providing the pilot schemes. Chemistry was one of these; Professor Duer confirmed that it was working in Chemistry and she had experienced no drop-off in attendance, but others reported that in Engineering the pilot had been abandoned. It was likely recording of lectures would happen, but it would take time.
- Funding for graduate students during periods of illness. It was confirmed that funding or its cessation during a period of illness bad enough to warrant intermission was entirely down to sponsors. Most took the view that a student unwell enough to intermit was not studying and therefore would not be funded during the intermission period. Students were advised if they found themselves in such a situation to speak with their supervisor, or their graduate supervision team, or their college, or all of those, who would help and advise the best course for their situation.
- Confirmation of student status: where a student needed swift confirmation of their continuing student status it would be useful to be able to make such a request electronically and receive a printout immediately. It was confirmed that this ought to be possible through CamSiS. As CamSiS was currently under redevelopment it was agreed that the Secretary of the Degree Committee would forward a request for this facility to be included in the improvements.
- The quality of both degree certificates, with electronically printed signatures, and also of transcripts, was considered poor. Students wondered why this could not be improved. The Secretary would raise the matter with the central University.

17106

**Any other business**

There was none.