

FACULTY BOARD OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

A meeting was held on Friday 7th November 2008 in the Committee Room, Institute of Astronomy. There were present:

Professor R.T. Phillips (Chairman), Professor G.T. Burstein, Professor A.L. Greer, Mr R.A.C. Hay, Dr H.R.N. Jones, Professor R.C. Kennicutt, Dr W. Nolan, Mr S. Pechmann, Dr J.M. Riley, Professor C.V. Robinson, Mr. J. Shepherd, Professor D.R. Ward and Mr P.M. Aslin (Secretary.)

Apologies were received from Professor C. Abell, Dr J.R. Batley, Dr S.M. Best, Professor G.F. Gilmore, Professor W. Jones, Miss D. Kaminski, and Professor P.B. Littlewood.

MINUTES

08701 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2008 were approved.

08702 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

08703 Election of student members of the Faculty Board

It was noted that the election of student members of the Faculty Board will take place on Tuesday 2nd December 2008, with the closing date for nominations on 25th November.

08704 National Student Survey 2008

The Faculty Board felt the results of the National Student Survey did not raise any significant issues of concern. The results have been circulated to Departmental Teaching Committees with an invitation to submit any comments directly to the Education Committee.

08705 Tripes Examinations: Marking and classing schemes and question specific feedback

The Board received a letter from the Education Section asking Faculty Boards to consider appropriate feedback on examination questions, together with a CUSU paper on the subject and revised General Board guidelines on marking standards and classing criteria. Teaching Committees have been asked to review their marking and classing schemes in the light of these guidelines. The Board were not convinced of the educational benefit of providing model answers to examination questions but agreed it would be desirable to adopt a common policy on examination feedback across the Faculty. Physics and Astronomy Teaching Committees have already considered this matter and intend to publish relevant extracts from the Examiners' Reports which provide a commentary on each question and how it was tackled by the candidates. The Board agreed to ask the other Teaching Committees to consider this option or to suggest alternative feedback and then to reconsider this matter at the next meeting.

The Physics Department are also arranging to make available more guidance on answering essay questions. It was noted that model answers to question sheets are made available to supervisors in the Departments of Chemistry and Physics but students are not generally aware of this fact and it would be helpful if they were informed.

08706 Draft Consultative Report of the Council and the General Board on the Requirements for the BA Degree.

The Board had no comment on the draft consultative report of the Council and the General Board on the requirements for the BA degree.

08707 Students' issues

No issues were raised.

08708 Membership of the Faculty Board in class (b)

R*

08709 Co-option of members of the Faculty Board in class (d)

R*

08710 Election of the Chairman of the Faculty Board for 2009

Professor R.T. Phillips was elected Chairman of the Faculty Board for the calendar year 2009.

08711 Appointment of a member of the Council of the School of the Physical Sciences

Professor R.T. Phillips was appointed a member of the Council of the School of the Physical Sciences for the calendar year 2009.

08712 Observers on other Faculty Boards

The following observers were appointed to serve on the Faculty Boards stated for the calendar year 2009:

Biology	Professor C.V. Robinson
Earth Sciences and Geography	Mr P.M. Aslin
Engineering	Professor G. T. Burstein
Mathematics	Dr R. Batley

08713 Membership of Appointments Committees

R*

08714 Pilkington Teaching Prize

R*

08715 Any other business

There was no further business.

R* These items remain Reserved