

FACULTY BOARD OF PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY

A meeting was held on Friday 26th June 2009 in the Committee Room, Institute of Astronomy. There were present:

Professor R.T. Phillips (Chairman), Mr P.M. Aslin, Dr J.R. Batley, Dr S.M. Best, Professor G.T. Burstein, Professor G.F. Gilmore, Professor A.L. Greer, Mr R.A.C. Hay, Dr H.R.N. Jones, Professor W. Jones, Professor R.C. Kennicutt, Ms A. Quider, Professor D.R. Ward, , Mrs Margaret Harding (Secretary of Degree Committee) and Miss Siân Owen (Faculty Administrator.) Dr N. Nikiforakis attended for item 09403.

Apologies were received from Professor C. Abell, Professor P.B. Littlewood, Dr W Nolan, Dr J.M. Riley, Professor C.V. Robinson, and Dr D.M.A. Stuart.

MINUTES

09401 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2009 were approved.

09402 Matters arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

09403 MPhil in Scientific Computing

The Faculty Board of Physics and Chemistry, including the voting members of the Degree Committee, considered a proposal for a new MPhil in Scientific Computing to commence in October 2010. The Committee members unanimously agreed to support this proposal and to forward the proposal for consideration by the Board of Graduate Studies. The Faculty Board added a requirement that the Course Director report before the end of each full term on the progress of the course.

Dr Nikiforakis asked that the members of the committee email him with and further comments or issues raised by the new course and propose solutions if possible.

09404 Code of Practice for graduate research degrees

The Board noted the code was originally written as an advisory document so much of the language is phrased accordingly and if it is to be enforceable may need to be redrafted and tightened up. The Faculty Board requested an opportunity to review a draft before it is issued.

A number of minor concerns were raised and improvements suggested regarding the role of the Director of Graduate Education, which overlaps with the Head of Department's responsibilities in some respects, and also the role of Advisor, which potentially conflicts with that of supervisor.

There was particular concern over the definition of the responsibilities of the principal supervisor to include "make sure the student has access to the resources required...". The Board felt this should be reversed, to something like: "ensure the student's project is appropriate to the resources available", because as stated there is nothing to define whether resources are "required" and a student might claim, for example, to require extensive fieldwork in order to collect data and the supervisor then has to "make sure" this is possible.

It was noted that CamGrad nomenclature must be made consistent with this guidance, particularly regarding the roles of Adviser and Second Supervisor, because as things stand there is likely to be much confusion.

09405 Publication of examination results

The Board received a proposal from the Board of Examinations for revisions to the arrangements for the publication of examination results. The Board were concerned that the proposed arrangements would either add to the load of Senior Examiners or would create unreasonable demands on the Examinations Office because of the rapid turnaround that would be required. However, the Faculty Board raised no objections to the proposal.

09406 Students' issues

There were no issues raised

09407 Any other business

There was no further unreserved business.

09408 Senior Research Associate in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy

Approval was granted for the appointment of Dr Antony Cox to Senior Research Associate in the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy with effect from a date to be determined.

09409 Faculty Promotions Committee

The following were appointed to the Faculty Promotions Committee for the 2010 exercise:

Professor G.F. Gilmore (Chair)

Professor T.W. Clyne

Professor A.C. Fabian

Professor A.L. Greer

Professor C. Grey

Professor R.L. Jones

Professor W. Jones

Professor R.C. Kennicutt

Professor P.B. Littlewood

Professor M.A. Parker

Professor M.C. Payne

09410 Headship of the Department of Physics

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09411 Senior Research Associate in the Department of Chemistry

Approval was granted for the appointment of Dr David Reid to Senior Research Associate in the Department of Chemistry with effect from 1st July 2009.

09412 Senior Research Associate in the Department of Physics

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