



## **ACADEMIC BOARD**

Minutes of a meeting of the Academic Board held on Wednesday 27 October 2010.

**Present:** Professor G Attwood; P Blatchford; Professor M Boddy; P Catley; M Frutos-Perez; A Gilkison; Professor P Gough; M Grey; Dr J Harrington; Professor H Langton; Professor J Longhurst; A Mathieson; Professor J McLeod; Professor R Means; P Nolan; C Offler; Professor P Olomolaiye; M Partington; Professor L Raphael Reed; J Rushforth; R Scott; F Tolmie; Dr S Waite; Professor S West (chair).

**Apologies:** T Goodhew; P Jones; Professor G Lyons; B Senior; G Wilson.

**In attendance:** J Bradley; A Cheshire; S Grive; Tessa Harrison (secretary); P Hume; T McGoldrick; C Rex; Lise Seager.

### **AB10.10.1 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

*Paper AB10/10/1 was received.*

The Board approved the unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2010.

### **AB10.10.2 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### **AB10.10.2.1 AB10.7.4 – Regulatory Framework : Late Work**

The Board noted that the report of a review of the implementation of the changes to regulations introduced in September 2009, together with an analysis of the impact of the changes would be brought to the next meeting.

**ACTION: ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

#### **AB10.10.2.2 ACADEMIC BOARD GOVERNANCE 2010/2011**

*Paper AB10/10/2 was received.*

**AB10.10.2.2.1** The Board received the current working version of the Academic Governance Framework 2010/2011. The Vice Chancellor noted that the Framework would be kept under review to ensure that the new structure was fit for purpose. The Board would be invited to undertake a stock take at its meeting in December 2010.

**ACTION: ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.2.2.2** Professor Gough reported that he had agreed with the Academic Registrar to reinstate the University Research Ethics Committee (to be chaired by Professor Means) into the Framework and the reporting line between Faculty Research Ethics Committees and the university level

committee. Professor Gough reported further that he would be working with the Academic Registrar to progress the outcomes of the review of the University's Ethics Policy.

**ACTION: DVC GOUGH/ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.2.3 BOARD OF GOVERNORS ACADEMIC BOARD NOMINEE**

The Board noted that, in light of his appointment to Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Gough had been replaced by Professor Paul Olomolaiye as the Academic Board nominee to the Board of Governors.

**AB10.10.3 REPORT OF CHAIR'S ACTIONS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Board noted the following approvals by Chair's Action since its last meeting:

- i. approval of a BA (Hons) General Business award with effect from the 2010/2011 academic year
- ii. approval of a proposal to develop joint award with the University of Bristol in Advanced Engineering Robotics to commence delivery in September 2011
- iii. approval of a change of award title for the PG Dip Bar Vocational Studies to PG Dip Bar Professional Training Studies and associated minor revisions to assessment regulations
- iv. an amendment to regulation F11 (late submission of work)
- v. the award of an Aegrotat degree (BBS)
- vi. approval of non standard academic calendar arrangements for HLS
- vii. the approval of a change of award title for the MSc Financial Management (Professional Learning and Development) to MSc Accounting and Financial Management (Professional Learning and Development) and MSc Financial Management to MSc Accounting and Financial Management.

**AB10.10.4 VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

*Paper AB10/10/3 was received.*

A separate report of the round table discussion on the University's academic strategy in light of the Browne Review and the Comprehensive Spending Review will be circulated.

**AB10.10.5 ACADEMIC BOARD ANNUAL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2009/2010**

*Paper AB10/10/4 was received.*

**AB10.10.5.1** The Board agreed to approve the draft annual report to the Board of Governors subject to:

- adding the Board's terms of reference to the start of the report
- replacing the reference to Environmental Management with Environmental Consultancy
- adding a conclusion that explicitly confirmed and provided

evidence of the Board's role in assuring the Board of Governors about the University's academic standards and quality.

**AB10.10.6 QAA AUDIT OF UK HEI PROVISION IN MALAYSIA: UWE AND BRICKFIELDS ASIA COLLEGE, LLB (Hons)**  
*Paper AB10/10/5 was received.*

**AB10.10.6.1** The Deputy Academic Registrar updated the Board on the report and outcomes from the QAA Audit of the University's collaborative partnership with Brickfields Asia College. During discussion the following points were made:

- the Faculty of Business and Law would need to ensure that actions for which the faculty was responsible were followed through
- increasing international activities meant that the University's regulations and procedures would need to be kept under review to ensure they were fit for purpose; any issues and proposals for change would be brought forward to the Board.

**AB10.10.6.2** The Board agreed to approve the action plan as set out subject to receiving regular updates on executive implementation of the actions to support the Board's role in institutional oversight of academic risk management.

**ACTION: ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.7 SHELL AWARD FRAMEWORK (SAF)**  
*Paper AB10/10/6 was received.*

**AB10.10.7.1** The Board agreed to approve the quality assurance process as set out noting the transitional nature of the arrangements pending the outcomes of the Quality Management and Enhancement Framework project which would need to ensure that oversight of SAF students was being tracked appropriately at faculty and institutional level.

**ACTION: DIRECTOR SAF; ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.8 PLACEMENT MATTERS – RECOGNISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN WORK BASED PLACEMENTS**  
*Paper AB/10/10/7 was received.*

**AB10.10.8.1** The Board agreed to approve the following proposals in relation to the way in which the University recognised learning achieved by undergraduate sandwich (SW) degree students during their work based placement year/period:

- i. to end the practice of awarding 'P' credit for assessed work based/placement learning with effect from 2011/12 for new students registering on awards of the University, with further phasing for awards where PSRB consultations require extra negotiation time. Placement learning assessed under the academic regulatory framework of the University would attract

- standard credit
- ii. to introduce a requirement for new students registering on SW degree awards from 2011/12 to undertake a minimum of 20 standard UWE credits at level 2 or above which reflect their placement learning
- iii. to require programme teams to incorporate into these minimum 20 credits learning outcomes recognising and assessing the independent and reflective learning skills, enhanced critical self-awareness and other work based achievements acquired by learners during their placement year/period
- iv. to retain the placement fee at a comparator sector level i.e. approx £630-£650, or current equivalents, covering placement student support, partnership liaison and academic support for WBL module outcomes subject to noting the University's review of its fees policy in light of the Browne review
- v. to introduce a placement year bursary, subject to further development work (and pending new charging regimes);
- vi. to encourage and support programme teams to embed more work based learning experiences into awards which may be assessed either within the credit structure of the award, or as additional credit.

The Board further agreed to approve the associated regulatory changes as set out.

**ACTION: ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.9 JOINT AND DUAL RESEARCH DEGREES**

*Paper AB10/10/8 was received.*

**AB10.10.9.1** The Board agreed to approve:

- (i) the process for establishment of collaborative research awards to provide for all proposed collaborations being assessed against the established and emerging strategic priorities of the University and the faculty(ies) involved. Faculties would also be required to demonstrate that the proposed partnership contributed towards their own strategic plan
- (ii) a specific proposal for the award of a joint PhD with the University of Malaya

noting that:

- the ability for the University to award joint and dual awards was an existing feature within its regulations
- any proposals relating to fee waivers would need to be consistent with other postgraduate provision
- there were opportunities for improved cross institutional learning about implementing dual awards.

**ACTION: ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.10 STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

**AB10.10.10.1** *Paper AB10/10/9 was received.*  
The Board received the report from the Dean of Students.

**AB10.10.10.2.1** The SRC President reported on current activities and priorities as follows:

- considerable attention was being paid to raise awareness amongst students about the outcomes from the Browne review and the implications for students at the University – there would be a national demonstration on 10 November
- 835 student representatives had been elected; the first round of departmental forums had taken place and training of representatives was underway
- important progress was being made on the UWESU annual general meeting planning and engaging students with the ways in which they could engage with the Union.

**AB10.10.10.2.2** The Vice Chancellor noted the importance of the University and UWESU working in partnership to seek clarity on the Brown Review and the CSR; he was currently drafting a paper about how to communicate more effectively with students about the University's thinking. There was still work to do to explore with, and through, the Dean of Students the NSS outcomes and how the student community was better engaged in a two way conversation with the University particularly in terms of being able to demonstrate where feedback loops had been closed.

**AB10.10.11 QAA INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW FROM 2011-2013 : CONSULTATION ON NEW PROCESS**  
*Paper AB10/10/10 was received.*

**AB10.10.11.1** The Board received a report notifying it of the current consultation on the proposed new process for reviewing academic quality and standards in higher education in England and Wales noting the focus on the quality of published information as set out in the Browne Review and anticipated in the HEFCE published information requirements. The Board would expect to keep a close eye on published information requirements through a project to be specified and led by Professor Gough.

**ACTION: DVC GOUGH/ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.12 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE 2009/2010**  
*Paper AB10/10/11 was received.*

**AB10.10.12.1** The Board welcomed the annual report of the Research Committee of its activities in 2009/2010 and noted that the Research Observatory had been launched in early 2010 as part of the University's strategy for making its research internationally searchable and accessible and in support of the REF process.

**AB10.10.13 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK STEERING GROUP**  
*Paper AB10/10/12 was received.*

**AB10.10.13.1** The Board received the terms of reference and composition for a new sub group reporting to the Board on management of the University's Academic Regulatory Framework noting that the Director of Business Intelligence and Planning had been invited to nominate a representative onto the steering group in addition to the IT user group.

**AB10.10.14 PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS**

The Board noted the following professorial appointments:

- the transfer of Professor Sue Roulstone to the Underwood Trust Chair in Language and Communication Impairment
- Ray Priest (Outreach).

**AB10.10.15 EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS**

The Board noted the following Emeritus Professors:

- Professor Margaret Miers (HLS)
- Professor Gisela Shaw (SSH)

The Board noted the following Emeritus Senior Fellows:

- Warwick Jones
- Jem Thomas.

**AB10.10.16 MEETINGS OF SUB COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES**

*Paper AB10/10/13 was received.*

The Board received the following:

Board of Governors – 18 May 2010, 6 July 2010

Health and Life Sciences Faculty Board – 19 May 2010

Social Sciences and Humanities Faculty Board – 19 May 2010

Quality and Standards Committee – 19 April 2010, 5 July 2010

Internationalisation Strategy Group – 18 May 2010

**AB10.10.17 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Vice Chancellor congratulated Professor Julie McLeod on her appointment to the post of Assistant Vice Chancellor (Learning and Teaching and Student Experience), noting that the Assistant Vice Chancellor would need to become a member of the Board. A wider announcement would be made in due course and work would be undertaken to manage Professor McLeod's transition from her current role into her new role.

**ACTION: ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**

**AB10.10.18 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Wednesday 8 December 2010

Wednesday 23 February 2011

Wednesday 6 April 2011

Wednesday 15 June 2011