Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 11 June 2013

Present: Professor Cardwell (Chairman), Dr Cook, Professor Forsyth, Dr Hiley, Dr Lasenby, Dr McLarty, Dr Padman, Dr Quinn, with Dr Maxwell as Secretary and with Mr Bennett Ms Green and Ms Pickard in attendance.

Apologies: Dr Dixon

4050 Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2013 were approved.

4051 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

4052 Graduate Admissions: Disclosure of criminal conviction (Papers 4945, 4946, 4947 & 4948)
The Board received a paper from the Head of Graduate Admissions, produced in consultation with the Cambridge Admissions Office and the University's Legal Service Office, proposing administrative processes to manage admission following disclosure of a criminal conviction.

The Board approved the new procedure subject to clarification on what 'other offences in relation to weapons' might be included, and for the relevant Degree Committee to be involved in the decision making process.

The Board noted that CamSIS were unable to complete the work in time for the next admissions cycle and that the changes would take effect for admission in October 2014.
Action: Head of Graduate Admissions

4053 Minutes of the Graduate Admissions Working Group (Paper 4949)

The Board received the minutes.

The Board noted that the responses to the consultation paper regarding a single application and funding deadline would reported back to Board in due course.

4054 Minutes of the Postgraduate Admissions Committee (Paper 4950)

The Board received the minutes.

4055 Application to admit part-time student: Gonville & Caius (Paper 4951)

The Board noted that the request was in relation to one graduate student and agreed to approve the request subject to the College being encouraged to admit part-time students more generally.

Action: Head of Graduate Admissions

4056 Request for consider amendment to regulation of the General Regulations for Admission as a Graduate Student (Paper 4952)

The Board considered a request form the Faculty of Physics & Chemistry to amend regulation 9 of the General Regulations for Admission as a Graduate Student. The Board approved the proposals in principle, but agreed that it would be necessary to consult all Degree Committees before proposing a change to regulations.

The Board also noted (i) that there had been an increase in the number of complaints relating to the PhD progression exercise and that the nature of the examination varied across Faculties which made the process difficult to quality assure and to assess complaints. The Board agreed that a review of the nature of the examination should be undertaken.

Action: Education Committee
Application to amend and renew Non-University Institute Status: British Antarctic Survey (Paper 4953)

The Board agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

Approval of the CPGS, Graduate Diplomas, and MSc, MLitt, EngD, MD, EdD, and PhD Degrees (Paper 4954)

The Board received the responses from the Degree Committees and noted that the majority were, in principle, in favour of the devolution of the approval of all graduate qualifications. It noted the Degree Committees’ concerns over resource requirements and responsibility for complaints.

In line with the responses of the Degree Committees involved, the Board agreed to recommend to the General Board’s Education Committee that Degree Committees assume responsibility for the approval of the Diploma in Economics, and the Postgraduate Diplomas in Legal Studies and International Law and the Certificate of Postgraduate Study for students admitted on or after 1 October 2013.

The Board also agreed to establish a working party to investigate in more detail, the feasibility of the Degree Committees assuming responsibility for the approval other graduate Degrees in due course.

Action: Education Committee

Any other Business

The Board welcomed Dr Quinn to her first meeting.