Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 7 January 2014

Present: Professor Prager (Chair), Dr Cook, Dr Dixon, Professor Forsyth, Professor Gelsthorpe, Dr Grounds, Professor Hewett, Dr Hiley, Dr McLarty, Dr Padman, Dr Quinn with Dr Maxwell as Secretary and with Ms Barlow, Mrs Fage, Ms Gardiner, Mrs Green and Ms Wilkinson in attendance.

Apologies: Professor Babinsky

4114 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2013 were approved.

4115 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4116 Graduate admissions report

(Paper 5094)

The report was received by the Board.

4118 Graduate Admissions: interviewing requirements

(M. 4087, Papers 5095, 5096, 5097)

The Board noted that at the meeting held on 8th October it was agreed that all students considered for an offer of admission should be
interviewed, with the caveat that individual courses may opt out if they provided a statement of how they would ensure the quality of students and reduce cases of fraud.

The Board received responses to this request from the School of the Humanities & Social Sciences, the Faculty of Modern & Medieval Language and the Faculty of Business & Management.

The Board reiterated its opinion that (i) the primary purpose of the interview was to establish a set of compatible expectations between the student and the University that would enhance the student experience; (ii) identification of fraudulent applications was a secondary issue; (iii) all potential PhD students should be interviewed; (iv) borderline cases, including those that had just met their offer conditions, should be interviewed; (vi) identification of weak students would reduce the number of complaints and the associated workload on both the Degree Committee and the Board but that management information was required to identify courses that had a disproportionate number of problem cases.

Whilst the Board recognised that interviewing might generate a resource issue for some courses, it was not appropriate for the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences to issue a general opt-out. The Board agreed to request responses from individual courses.

The Board also agreed that individual course responses should be sought from the Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages.

The Board noted that the Faculty of Business & Management had submitted a detailed response and that its proposals were acceptable.

4119

**Cambridge Home/EU Scholarships Scheme 2014**
(Paper 5112)

The report was received by the Board and Dr Hiley was given thanks for his contribution to the CHESS Competition.