Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 4 March 2014

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

Apologies: Dr McLarty

4144 Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2014 were approved.

4145 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

4146 Graduate Application Fee
The Postgraduate Admissions Committee’s proposal for an alternative application fee charging model was approved. The Board noted that the new scheme would enable students to apply for up to five courses with similar research themes and that its utilisation was at the discretion of the Schools.
Code of Practice for research students

The Board approved the draft recommendations for the revision of the Code of Practice subject to minor amendments. Board members were invited to submit more substantive amendments to the Head of Educational and Student Policy.

CHESS Competition 2014

The Board noted that the Newton Trust contribution to CHESS had been ring-fenced for the MPhil pilot scheme which had resulted in less money than expected being available to fund Home PhD students in the 2014 competition.

The Board agreed:

(i) To focus the CHESS resources on full PhD studentships for Home students and that the stipend should remain at £500 below the Research Council rates;

(ii) CHESS funds should not be used to pay college fees for Research Council funded students;

(iii) CHESS could not provide additional research expenses.

The Board reaffirmed the decision to release £265k of spendable capital for the 2013-14 competition but noted that the current financial position was not sustainable and that it was necessary to liaise with CUDAR as a matter of urgency to ensure that fundraising activity would be targeted towards the support of graduate studentships. The Board also agreed to undertake of a full review of graduate funding in the Easter Term.