Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 29 April, 2014

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

Apologies: Dr Dixon, Dr Grounds

4171 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 April, 2014 were approved.

4172 Declarations of Interest

4173 Graduate Admissions: interviewing requirements

(Papers 5095, 5177)

The Board agreed that the Chair and Secretary should meet the Deputy Secretary and Deputy Head of the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences to discuss their issues surrounding interviewing those applicants to whom departments wish to make an offer of admission.

4174 Information provided to candidates for the PhD degree at or immediately after, the oral examination

(Paper 5178)

Following an enquiry from the Independent Chair of a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Education, the Board considered whether it was acceptable to inform the candidate of the likely outcome of the examination immediately after the viva voce examination. It was agreed
to investigate common practice at other institutions and to draw up a proposal for the Board’s consideration at a later date.

**4175 Distribution of Examiners’ reports**

The Board agreed to the circulation of Examiners’ reports to candidates for the PhD under Special Regulations and the Higher Doctorates in order to bring these examinations in line with the PhD process.

**4176 Home Office withdrawal of TOEFL as a Secure English Language Test (SELT) (Paper 5182)**

Following the Home Office announcement that it will no longer accept TOEFL as a Secure English Language Test, the Board agreed two short term proposals:

(i) The University could no longer accept new TOEFL certificates as evidence of English Language proficiency for the purpose of graduate admission. Applicants would be advised to take an appropriate alternative test.

(ii) Applicants who had been made a confirmed offer on the basis of a pre-existing TOEFL certificate (and who require a Tier 4 student visa) would be contacted and asked to undertake a free language test with the University Language Centre.

The Board agreed that it would be necessary to consult the Language Centre, Cambridge Assessment and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) with a view to offering certain CPE and CAE qualifications as evidence of English language capability for entry in October 2015 onwards.

**4177 Applications for examination allowances**

The Board agreed as a point of principle that requests for examination allowances in which a candidate considered that they may have underperformed would not considered prior to the formal release of the results of the examinations.