Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 10 June, 2014

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

Apologies: Professor Babinsky
Professor Hewett
Dr Hiley

4185 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 April, 2014 were approved.

4186 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4187 Interim report on graduate funding administered by the Student Registry
(Paper 5189)

The Board received the interim report and were pleased to note the overall success of the pilot year of the Newton MPhil scheme and the role the Colleges had played in generating more funding opportunities for graduate students.

The Board agreed that graduate funding was a strategic priority and that the University should set an ambitious target that would enable it to fund the top-ranked graduate applicants. It agreed that this would only be possible through continued collaboration with the Colleges and Departments and by way of significant fund-raising campaign to be
undertaken in collaboration with DAR. The Board agreed to establish a
Working Group to consider graduate funding and to include
representatives from the Colleges, departments, Cambridge Trust,
Cambridge Gates Trust, Isaac Newton Trust and DAR.

4188 Payment of non-UTO supervisors of graduate students
(Paper 5193)

The Board noted that payment of non-UTO supervisors of graduate
students will be devolved to Schools from the start of the Michaelmas
Term 2014. The Board noted that the Schools had been consulted and
supported the proposal of a minimum payment of £55 per student per
term with Schools free to pay higher amounts if they wish.

The Board noted the requirement that the fee was not payable until a
supervision report had been submitted and requested that the reporting
system be modified to allow automatic payment of non-UTO
supervisors.

It also noted that separate arrangements would be made for
supervisors based at University Partner Institutes in that a lump sum
would be paid to the UPIs alongside the annual fee rebate.

The proposed amendments to regulation 14 of the General Regulations
for admission as a Graduate Student were approved.

4189 Entitlement to staff fee rate
(Paper 5190)

The Board approved the request to extend the entitlement to apply for a
reduction in the University Composition fee to those students registered
for the EdD degree and who hold an employment contract with the
University.

4190 Application to admit candidates for part-time research courses
(Paper 5191)

The Board considered a request from MRC Laboratory of Molecular
Biology to admit part-time students with effect from Michaelmas Term
2014.

The Board approved the request, subject to confirmation that the
practicalities of accommodating part-time students could be met.

4191 Requests to be exempt from interviewing applicants
(Paper 5192)
The Board received requests from the Course Directors for the MPhils in European Literature & Culture, Screen Media & Cultures and Theoretical & Applied Linguistics for exemption from interviewing all graduate applicants to whom an offer of admission will be made.

The Board noted that each of the courses in question had a good track record but that further information relating to the PTES results, offer to place ratio and internal student satisfaction survey data would be required before the requests could be considered.

4192 Minutes of the Postgraduate Admissions Committee
(Paper 5194)

The minutes were received.

4193 Student self-evaluation for reporting on Master's programmes
(Paper tabled: 5207)

The Board welcomed the student self-evaluation and noted this was a pilot scheme and that the template might require further refinement in light of the student responses.

The Board approved the template self-evaluation form.

4194 Applications to renew University Partner Institute (UPI) status

4194.1 European Molecular Biology Laboratory- European Bioinformatics Institute (EMBL-EBI)
(Paper 5195)

The Board approved the request to renew UPI status for an additional five years, subject to Degree Committee approval.

4194.2 National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB)
(Paper 5196)

The Board approved the request to renew UPI status for an additional five years, subject to Degree Committee approval.