Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 1 July 2014

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

Apologies: Dr Dixon
Professor Gelsthorpe

4203 Minutes
The minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2014 were approved.

4204 Declarations of Interest
There were none.

4205 Minutes of the Postgraduate Admissions Committee
(Paper 5210)
The Board noted the Committee’s conclusion that a system whereby applicants were charged a fee of £20 and those receiving an offer of admission were charged an addition £80 was unmanageable. The Board agreed that the issue of the graduate application fee had now been considered at appropriate committee level and approved the PAC’s proposal that Departments may purchase fee waiver vouchers for distribution to applicants, at their discretion.

4206 English Language requirements
(Papers 5221, 5222)
TOEFL
The Board noted that HEIs were entitled to determine their own methods to determine English language competency within limits specified by the Home Office and that the TOEFL scores for applicants that have been independently assessed by the Language Centre were found to reflect accurately their language ability.

The Board agreed to reinstate TOEFL as evidence of meeting the language condition for entry in 2015-16, with the requirement that all such applicants are interviewed and with the caveat that an offer of admission may be rescinded in light of the interviews. The Board also agreed that acceptance of TOEFL should be suspended under the Secretary’s authority in light of any such recommendation made by the Home Office.

CPE and CAE

The Board noted that CPE grades A-C and CAE grade A were approximately equivalent to IELTS grade 8.0 and that although neither CPE or CAE were a test of academic English this applied equally to other tests and that the only way to gauge accurately the level of academic English was by way of an interview.

The Board agreed to accept CPE grade A-C and CAE grade A as evidence of competence of English language for admission in 2015-16.

PTE

The Board received the Language Centre review and agreed that the Pearson PTE should not be accepted as evidence of English language proficiency for admission as a graduate student.

4207 Application to renew University Partner Institute status: British Antarctic Survey
(Paper 5223)

The Board approved the request, subject to confirmation of support from the Degree Committee for the Faculty of Biology.