Unreserved Business

minutes

Board Meeting on 3 February 2015

Present: Professor Cardwell (Chairman), Professor Babinsky, Dr Bampos, Dr Dixon, Professor Forsyth, Professor Gelsthorpe, Dr McLarty, Dr Padman and Dr Spivak, with Dr Maxwell as Secretary and with Ms Fage, Ms Green, Ms Reed and Ms Watts in attendance.

Apologies: Professor Hines, Dr Grounds, Dr Quinn

4262 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2015 were approved.

4263 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4264 Graduate Admissions: verification of identity

The Board noted that overseas students were required upload a copy of their passport as part of their application but that UK and other EU students were not required to do so. The Board discussed the problems caused by the lack of proof of identity for UK and EU students, especially with regard to assessment of fee status and by the lack of contiguous processes within the University.

The Board supported the proposal at this stage and was willing review the matter further if required.

4265 Postgraduate Support Scheme 2015

The Board noted that the University had 67 bursaries of £10000 for PGT students enrolled in 2015-16, jointly funded with HEFCE.
Review of Research Council (RC) Doctoral Training Grant administration

The Board noted that the review of the RC DTG administration had begun with the first meeting of the Review Committee, chaired by Dr Padman, on 23 January 2015. The review would focus on the larger doctoral training grants and involve three main stages: fact-finding; process-mapping and identification of issues; implementation of the way forward. A working group had been convened to undertake the day-to-day activity with representatives from the major stakeholders.

Constitution of the Degree Committee for the Faculty of Mathematics
(Paper 5318)

The Board considered and approved the proposed constitution of the Degree Committee.

Office of the Independent Adjudicator (OIA): Good Practice Framework
(Paper 5319)

The Board noted that the OIA had resolved that the Formal and Review stages of a complaint should normally be completed within 90 calendar days and that the University’s current timescale was well in excess of this expectation.

The Board agreed that, if required, extraordinary meetings would be held in order to meet the 90-day deadline and that the full membership would not be required to attend. It was further suggested that guidelines on the consideration of appeals should be provided to Degree Committees.

The Secretary would write to Degree Committees to inform them of the 90-day deadline and the Board’s reaction, and to offer guidance on their response to OIA cases.