School of Technology

Council of the School

Board Room, Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, West Cambridge Site

UNRESERVED MINUTES

Present:	Professor Richard Prager (Chairman)
	Professor John Dennis
	Professor Christoph Loch
	Professor Ross Anderson
	Dr Alice Hutchings
	Professor Alan Blackwell
	Professor Stewart Cant
	Professor Simon Guest
	Ms Judith Offenberg (Undergraduate Student Representative)
	Ms Eva Agapaki (Graduate Student Representative)
	Dr James Moultrie (School observer)
	Dr Claire Barlow (School observer)
	Professor Simon Moore (School observer)
	Dr Shui Lam (Secretary)
	Ms Joanna Walmsley (Acting School Finance Manager)
In Attendance:	Professor Andy Neely and Ms Beverley Weston
Apologies:	Professor David Cardwell, Professor Andy Hopper, Dame Polly Courtice, Professor Lisa Hall, Dr Vincent Mak, Professor Sir Mark Welland, Professor Robin Langley, Professor Tim Minshall, Professor Bill Byrne, Professor Mark Blamire (School observer), Dr Mark Thompson (School observer), Ms Rachael Tuley (Assistant Secretary) and Ms Yi-Jun Lin (Administrative Secretary)

Declarations of interest
There was no declaration of interest.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2018 were approved.

Matters arising

Ms Beverley Weston attended for this item.

Under matters arising, Professor Blackwell raised an issue related to 3.1 Whittle Laboratory Expansion, regarding the gateway to the new Engineering development at West Cambridge. On behalf of the Computer Laboratory, he expressed concerns that there was a recent report that stated the Department's preferred option for the extension north of the building was not considered to be consistent with the West Cambridge MasterPlan. Ms Weston commented that the report had not been signed off by Estate Management. She would take it as an action from the meeting to review the report, develop the different options in detail and explore the planning issues and challenges.

Professor Blackwell agreed that the Computer Laboratory would work with Estate Management on this to develop the gateway to the new Engineering Department.

Ms Weston was thanked for her contributions and left the meeting.

On item 3.2 Technology, Politics and Economics Tripos, the Chair reported that although progress has stalled due to the forthcoming departure of a key member of staff, the University was still keen for a similar education initiative to be developed in the future.

Chair's report

The Chair reported that he had approved an allocation of £100k out of the School's Strategic Reserve to contribute to the start-up fund for the Prince Philip Professorship, which also received contributions of £175k from the Department of Engineering and £275k from the centre.

2. Starred items

The starred items were approved.

3. Principal business

3.1. Industrial Strategy

The Chair welcomed Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise and Business Relations), Professor Neely, who attended the meeting for this item.

Professor Neely explained that his Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Enterprise and Business Relations) work portfolio spans across enterprise and business relations. He wished to concentrate the discussion on the latter part, and address the question "How to make Cambridge easier to collaborate with for

businesses?" Such business relations are multi-dimensional involving funding for research projects, staff posts, executive education etc, and often do not rest easily within one academic department or one administrative division in the University.

There are three strands to the proposal to improve industrial engagements, which were considered by the Research Policy Committee:

1. Strategic Business Partners, sponsored by the central University:

The title of "strategic business partners" will be assigned to large companies which have, or will develop, a long term relationship with the University, such as Rolls Royce or Nestle.

Each strategic partner will be supported by a team consisting of:
- one named contact name in Research Office,
- one named knowledge transfer facilitator,
- one named CUDAR contact, and
- one academic lead.

2. "Portal engagements" for multi-disciplinary engagements:

It is not always obvious how companies can navigate their way to find the relevant experts; for example companies interested in x may find that x is done in a number of different departments, from different perspectives. Therefore, another way of engaging companies may be through "portals". Multi-disciplinary collaborations such as SRIs, IRCs and the Maxwell Centre might be granted portal status. Further thinking is required to develop this concept.

3. Industrial clubs, mostly owned by individual departments:

A more common way of business engagements is through individual departments, by the way of industrial clubs such as the Computer Laboratory's Ring and the IfM's industrial members club.

- There followed a discussion in which a number of points were made, including the following:

- The University's engagement with businesses is hampered by the departments not understanding the needs of the relevant businesses. This is not helped by the fact that sometimes businesses don't appreciate sufficiently what the University can do for them. A more productive way forward would be better and deeper engagements with businesses which wish to work with us.

- Successful consultancy practices have account managers who understand their clients' needs, and keep them engaged and happy. They bring in experts from different disciplines to collaborate on projects and have people embedded in the clients' firms. This could be achieved

as a secondment, which was how one Vet School staff member went into GSK.

- Another suggestion was a tracking system so that there is a clear record of who is dealing with which company.

Professor Neely was thanked for his contributions and left the meeting.

3.2. EPSRC Centres of Doctoral Training call 2018

At the meeting, Dr Moultrie led the discussion and the following points emerged:

- The deadline for outline proposals of the EPSRC CDTs 2018 is 13 March 2018. A maximum of 17 standard (i.e. not AI) applications may be submitted from Cambridge. Paper **T/18/15** provides a list of CDTs that will be submitted, including the applications to a separate call for Artificial Intelligence.
- For each CDT, the EPSRC would expect a mininmum of 10 students, to be funded by industry and other sources, which the University would have to underwrite. This could lead to a funding gap of £1m per CDT over 8 years.
- Initial discussions with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) were promising but a subsequent conversation with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Resources) indicated that there would be no central funding forthcoming and therefore, the money would have to be made available from the School, either at the level of the School, departments, PI or individual PhD supervisors. As far as the EPSRC is concerned, the Univeristy will underwrite.
- Paper **T/18/16** proposes a governance structure to manage the underwrite of the CDTs. Paper **T/18/17** provides the detail on how the underwriting of studentships will work in the School of Technology based on the PhD student numbers in the relevant cohort.
- It is important to stress that, while the School can pay for underwritten studentships first, funds will have to be recovered from the Departments on a pro-rata basis, with a year's delay. Because of the departmental financial commitment, it will be essential for the CDTs to obtain a letter of support from each of the relevant Heads of Department before full proposals are submitted.

The Council of the School made the following observations:

- The fee income of the CDT students will be retained in the centre (at least not directly benefiting the host Schools/departments) while the cost of studentships will fall on the departments.
- Since the CDT grants will be funded at 100% FEC, it would be attractive to the departments if both PI and Co-I's time were recorded as directly incurred in X5.

Dr Moultrie and Ms Collier were thanked for their work on the CDT applications.

4. Straightforward Business

4.1. Half year-end Financial Report

The half year-end Financial Report, Paper **T/18/18**, was noted. The Acting Finance Manager agreed to look and report back on two queries: Engineering's surplus at £1.4m and the Computer Laboratory's overhead recovery rate of 40%.

4.2. Proposed dates for meetings in 2018-19

The proposed dates for the 2018-19 Council of the School meetings as detailed in Paper **T/18/19** were approved.

4.3. Risk Assessment

The Council of the School assessed the risks of decisions made and decided no additional risks need to be added to the risk register.

5. ***Minutes of other committees

Needs Committee	27 February 2018	**T/18/20**

6. Any other business
There was no other business.

7. Dates of Future Meetings 2017-18

2.00 p.m. in Board Room, Department of Engineering:
Friday, 11 May 2018

2.00 p.m. in FW11, Computer Laboratory:
Friday, 15 June 2018

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