

**School of Technology**

**Council of the School**

**2.00 p.m. on Friday, 2 February 2018**

**Board Room, Department of Engineering, Trumpington Street**

**UNRESERVED MINUTES**

- Present: Professor Richard Prager (Chairman)  
Professor David Cardwell  
Professor Andy Hopper  
Professor Christoph Loch  
Dr Alice Hutchings  
Professor Alan Blackwell  
Dr Vincent Mak  
Professor Robin Langley  
Professor Simon Guest  
Professor Bill Byrne  
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 (School Finance Manager)  
Ms Yi-Jun Lin (Administrative Secretary)
- In Attendance: Ms Tracy Brooks, Professor Rob Miller representing  
Professor Stewart Cant
- Apologies: Professor John Dennis, Dame Polly Courtice, Professor  
Lisa Hall, Professor Ross Anderson, Professor Stewart  
Cant, Professor Sir Mark Welland, Professor Tim  
Minshall, Ms Judith Offenbergl (Undergraduate Student  
Representative), Professor Mark Blamire (School  
observer), Dr Mark Thompson (School observer), and  
Ms Rachael Tuley (Assistant Secretary)

**Declarations of interest**

There was no declaration of interest.

## **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 November 2017 were approved.

### **1.1. Membership of the Council of the School**

The Council of the School noted Paper **T/18/1** which gives the membership of the Council of the School with the student representatives.

### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising other than those minuted here.

### **Chair's report**

There was no Chair's report.

## **2. Starred items**

The starred items were approved.

## **3. Principal business**

### **3.1. Whittle Laboratory Expansion**

At the meeting, it was reported that there was the opportunity to secure significant funding from the Aerospace Technology Institute (ATI) and EPSRC to develop a National Centre for Turbomachinery Aerodynamics at the Whittle Laboratory, providing flagship facilities and research capabilities not currently available elsewhere. The facility would provide a unique opportunity to transform work at the Whittle Laboratory and the rest of Division A.

The Department of Engineering's preferred option was to deliver this as part of a larger refurbishment and extension project. A preliminary scheme was developed as part of the Department's Move West Inset Masterplan. The Department of Engineering would like a University contribution of around £5 – 6m to demonstrate institutional support for the application to ATI (for £13.5m) and to the EPSRC (for £3m). The remainder of the required funding to complete the scheme would be agreed with the Planning and Resources Committee on the successful outcome of the application.

On the question of the location of the main entrance to the Engineering Department at West Cambridge, it was clarified that it would be at the triangle of Cavendish III, the Computer Laboratory and the Roger Needham Building.

On that basis, the Council of the School fully endorsed the proposal as detailed in Paper **T/18/2** and agreed to recommend it whole-heartedly to the Planning and Resources Committee.

### **3.2. Technology, Politics and Economics Tripos**

At the meeting, the Council of the School considered Paper **T/18/3** which proposes a new Technology, Politics and Economics Tripos involving the School of Technology and the School Humanities and Social Sciences. The Faculty Board of Engineering has discussed the proposal and the unconfirmed minutes of the Faculty Board are attached in Paper **T/18/4**.

The project was commended for the ambition of training graduates who would be well placed to understand technology and economics, and influence the way we implement policies at high level. However, there were a number of points which would require further detailed discussions before the proposed Tripos could receive final approval:

1. With the Tripos not being “owned” by a single Department the governance structure would need careful consideration to ensure academic rigour and administrative efficiency
2. The additional number of undergraduates proposed for the new Tripos looked sensible and should be incremental to the existing Engineering Tripos students, rather than at the expense of them.
3. It would be essential for a proportion of the additional income from undergraduate fees to be channelled back to the Schools responsible for the delivery of the course.
4. There were concerns over the low level of Technology content in the proposed Tripos and the relatively low Mathematics entrance condition, with the latter potentially leading to a requirement of more school level teaching from the Departments than they are used to providing.
5. Lastly, the question the job market for such graduates was raised.

For the time being, the Council of the School agreed in principle to recommend this initiative be eligible for fund-raising effort by CUDAR, with the proviso that as the plan for the Tripos becomes better developed and the fund-raising target is achieved, a detailed proposal comes back to the Council of the School for formal approval.

### **3.3. EPSRC Centres of Doctoral Training (CDTs): Call for applications**

The second call of the EPSRC CDTs has been announced with an external deadline of 13 March 2018. The background information is detailed in Paper **T/18/5**. Dr Moultrie led the discussion and the following points emerged:

1. A maximum of 17 outline applications is allowed from Cambridge.
2. The EPSRC expects a minimum of 10 students which will involve funding from 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, which could be £10m to the University in the worst scenario.
3. Discussions with Pro-Vice-Chancellors indicate that there would be little 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.
  4. Heads of Department should be aware of the amount of time and effort spent by the MRes Directors in running the existing CDTs and preparing the bids for the new ones.

The Council of the School considered and noted the points made and gave Dr Moultrie full endorsement to continue this excellent work.

#### **4. Other Substantive Business**

##### **4.1. REF (2021) Steering Committee**

The Council of the School noted that the Schools have been asked to establish a School level REF Steering Committee. The terms of reference for the Committee is as included in Paper **T/18/6**.

##### **4.2. Actual RAM 2016-17 and resource allocation**

The Council of the School noted Paper **T/18/7** which shows draft school outcomes in the 2016-17 Actual RAM, and the proposed RDM allocations for 2018-19. The allocations to departments will follow at a later meeting.

#### **5. Straightforward business**

##### **5.1. HR Briefing**

The Council of the School noted the HR Briefing note **Paper: T/18/8**. In addition, the HR Business Manager reported that

1. the UCU had given notice of 14 days of proposed strike action, and
2. the gender pay gap for the School was now available and she would be meeting Heads of Department to discuss issues raised in the analysis.

##### **5.2. Health and safety matters**

No health and safety issues were reported by Heads of Department to the Council of the School.

##### **5.3. Risk Assessment**

The Council of the School did not add any further risk to the School Risk Register as a result of decisions made at this meeting.

**6. \*\*\*Minutes of other committees**

Needs Committee Note	23 January 2018	<b>T/18/9</b>
Graduate School Committee	10 November 2017	<b>T/18/10</b>
IT Strategy Committee	11 October 2017	<b>T/18/11</b>
REF Steering meeting	20 December 2017	<b>T/18/12</b>
HR Committee	14 November 2017	<b>T/18/13</b>

The minutes were noted.

**7. Any other business**

There were no any other business.

**8. Dates of Future Meetings 2017-18**

2.00 p.m. in Board Room (West Cambridge site), Department of Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology:  
Friday, 09 March 2018

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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