

**School of Technology**

**Council of the School**

**2.00 p.m. on Friday, 1 May 2015**

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

**UNRESERVED MINUTES**

Present: Professor Richard Prager (Chairman)  
Professor Nigel Slater  
Professor Andy Hopper  
Professor Christoph Loch  
Mrs Polly Courtice  
Professor Robert Mair  
Professor Lisa Hall  
Professor Mike Gordon  
Professor Nick Collings  
Professor John Robertson  
Professor Robin Langley  
Professor Sir Mike Gregory  
Professor Bill Byrne  
Mr Nsikan Essien (Undergraduate Student Representative)  
Mr Max Conway (Graduate Student Representative)  
Dr Alan Blackwell (School observer)  
Dr Claire Barlow (School observer)  
Dr James Moultrie (School observer)  
Professor Richard Penty (School observer)  
Professor John Dennis (School observer)  
Dr Shui Lam (Secretary)  
Mr Matt Burgess (School Finance Manager)  
Miss Yi-Jun Lin (Administrative Secretary)

In Attendance: Dr Peter Hedges attended for item 3.1.

Apologies: Professor David Cardwell, Professor Gishan Dissanaiké, Professor Ross Anderson, Professor Mark Blamire (School observer), Ms Georgina Cannon, and Ms Rachael Tuley (Assistant Secretary)

The Chair welcomed Dr Claire Barlow and Professor John Dennis who were in attendance as observers.

## **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **1. Minutes**

The unreserved minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2015 were approved and signed.

### **Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **Chair's report**

The Chairman had nothing additional to report at this meeting.

### **2. Starred items**

The starred items were approved.

### **3. Principal business**

#### **3.1. Discipline Specific Review**

At the meeting, it was reported that the General Board has agreed that all academic activity in the university would now be subject to routine external reviews. The Head of School has produced Paper **T/15/18** which provides an update of discussions so far. Dr Peter Hedges, Head of the Research Office, attended the meeting to discuss the matter in detail with the Council of the School. Dr Hedges emphasised the following key messages:

- These are to be reviews of research, not just linked to REF
- These are external reviews, undertaken by externals, expected to complement existing reviews
- This is not just another administrative process. Each review should address a small number of important questions for a particular discipline, which would need to be approved by the School and General Board.

It was generally agreed that the review should be more of a “preview”, be prospective rather than retrospective, and looking at the future for the discipline concerned. It would be better to have a “preview” across

Engineering, CEB and the Computer Laboratory, without the departmental boundaries. For example, the “preview” could address what the discipline would look like in 25 years’ time and see if we are equipped to excel in the future environment. In addition, it was suggested that, as well as the externals looking into the Departments, they could examine look outwards at the wider University polices that have an impact on Departmental research activities.

It was suggested that the typical membership of six people was too small and one from outside academia too few: for the Engineering International Visiting Committee, the ratio of academics to outside academia was 50:50.

It was agreed that the Needs Committee should consider the request and present the Council of the School with a detailed proposal at a future meeting.

### **3.2. National Research Facility for Infrastructure Sensing: Registration of Opportunity**

At the meeting, it was reported that £18m of funding had been secured from UKCRIC towards the construction of a National Research Facility for Infrastructure Sensing. This project, with a completion date around early 2019, would be progressed as Phase 1 of the Department of Engineering’s Moving West buildings. A registration of opportunity is as detailed in Paper **T/15/19**. For its part, the Council of the School agreed to approve the paper.

*[Note added after the meeting: It transpires that the paper will need to be revised to include the request for a warrant to enable some works to proceed. The Council of the School will be asked to approve the revised version via circulation when the paper is finished.]*

### **3.3. William Gates Building Extension: Registration of Opportunity**

At the meeting, it was reported that the Computer Laboratory would like to register the opportunity to extend the William Gates building. The capital cost was estimated to be around £11- 15m in total. A registration of opportunity is detailed in Paper **T/15/20**. For its part, the Council of the School agreed to approve the paper.

## **4. Other Substantive Business**

### **4.1. New Allocations and Savings for 2015-16**

The Council of the School received Paper **T/15/21** which is an extract from RMC papers considering 2015-16 supplementary allocations.

It was noted that the RMC agreed to make the following recurrent supplementary awards to the School from 2015-16:

- RDM Allocation: £592k, and
- MPhil Premium Fees (ISMM and Machine Learning): £50k.

The Council of the School approved new allocations and savings targets be apportioned across departments as proposed in Paper **T/15/22** and Paper **T/15/23**.

#### **4.2. CEB Building Contribution Shortfall**

At the meeting, it was reported that the CEB building was due for completion this summer. However, under the University's new requirement for Departments to generate 15% of the capital cost, there would be a notional shortfall of around £5.75m, arising from the unique set of difficult funding circumstances for this building.

The Council of the School considered the case made by the Head of Department of CEB to the Planning and Resources Committee to write off the notional shortfall, as detailed in Paper **T/15/24**. It was agreed to support the request while giving the Head of School power to adjust the paper as appropriate.

### **5. Straightforward and Reported Business**

#### **5.1. Proposed dates for meetings in 2015-16**

The proposed dates for the 2015-16 Council of the School meetings detailed in Paper **T/15/25** were approved.

#### **5.2. Risk Assessment**

It was agreed that the School's risk register should be adjusted to reflect the approval of the capital projects approved at the meeting.

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

Needs Committee	21 April 2015	<b>T/15/26</b>
Graduate School Committee	06 March 2015	<b>T/15/27</b>
IT Advisory Committee	17 March 2015	<b>T/15/28</b>

**Action: to note**

**7. Any other business**

There was no any other business.

**8. Dates of Future Meetings 2014-15**

2.00 p.m. in FW11, Computer Laboratory:  
Friday, 05 June 2015

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