

OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS

DMAC 9 Minutes of Academic Committee held on 21 January 2002 at 14:15 in Room 20.19, ETB Building (Shortened Version)

Present: APS (Chair), AC, AKPL, JMS, RIT.

Apologies: PRW.

1. The **minutes** of DMAC 8 were agreed.

2. **Matters arising.**

a) Minute 6.3, Supplementary subject legislation.

APS reported that he had still not had time to action this, and that the matter was now becoming urgent.

Action: APS

b) Minute 11.2, Rationalisation of EMS teaching.

This matter had also been raised at the special DC meeting held on 4 January. It is an agenda item for the next EMS Standing Committee. Tutorial teaching for EMS also needed attention because much of it was not being organised either by tutors or centrally.

Action: APS

c) Minute 13, Learning outcomes for EMS.

The HoD has insisted that these learning outcomes are generated for EMS courses. He has offered to take the lead in generating them himself. Some alarm was expressed by the committee about a recent report of students suing a university for setting examination questions that, it was claimed, fell outside the defined set of 'learning outcomes' for the course. APS was asked to liaise with GDWS about the production of the learning outcomes, although there was still little enthusiasm expressed for them.

Action: APS

3. **Report on Divisional Board Academic Committee** meeting held on Tuesday of 1st week.

a) EPSC objections to 2nd year examinations

APS circulated an extract of draft EPSC notes for guidance on 2nd year examinations and assessment, and reported that it will be necessary to address all the bullet points listed when DMAC argues the case for 2nd year exams.

b) Preliminary Examination in Physical Sciences, and Honour School of Natural Science

It was **agreed** that we should withdraw from the Preliminary Examination in Physical Sciences and draft legislation for a new Preliminary Examination in Materials Science. For the Honour School of Natural Science, however, it was **agreed** that we should remain in the that School in order to allow our students to take supplementary subjects in other departments within the Honour School of Natural Science.

Action: APS

4. **Copyright Tribunal Ruling.** APS drew the committee's attention to the circulated press release from UUK, which reported its victory over the CLA in a recent Tribunal Hearing. He recommended that all DC members read the press release. Although the Tribunal ruling resolved some of the most serious concerns about the current CLA agreement there are still many grey areas to be resolved in the use of copyright material in electronic form.

5. **Admissions, 2001.** RIT tabled a summary of the results of the undergraduate admissions exercise for 2001, which showed a very encouraging rise in the interest in Materials, the ratio of offers to applicants having fallen from 77% in 2000 to 55% in 2001.
6. **Greatest teaching need.** The committee was asked by GDWS to consider the area in which our undergraduate teaching needs were now the greatest. After careful consideration of the three principal areas we teach (which map roughly onto General Papers I, II and III) and the current members of permanent staff available to lecture/tutor, it was **agreed** that the greatest need is undoubtedly in Electronic Properties (Paper II).
7. **Options.** Members of the DC are asked to propose new options, either of 8 or 16 lectures, to begin from October 2002. **Action: All DC**
8. **Date of next meeting:** HT 7th week (Monday 25 February 2002) at 2.15.

APS
January 22, 2002