SENATE

TEACHING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2015

Present: Professor J Robinson (Chair), Ms L Booth, Mr N Dandy, Mrs K Dodd, Professor C Fewster, Dr J Grenville, Dr J Hardman, Ms J Horvatic (GSA representative), Dr S King, Dr T Lightfoot, Mr G Offer (YUSU representative), Professor M Ormrod (Academic Co-ordinator, Arts and Humanities), Dr M Roodhouse, Dr K Selby, Dr Á Shiel, Dr R Vann, Dr R Waites, Professor A Young

In attendance: Professor D Baker (SERO Consulting Ltd, for M14-15/59), Mr D Clarke (ASO), Mrs J Fox (ASO, Secretary), Mrs L Smith (Careers, for M14-15/100), Mr R Quayle (YUSU, for M14-15/101)

Apologies: Professor S Bell (Academic Co-ordinator, Social Sciences), Ms C Dantec, Professor B Fulton (Academic Co-ordinator, Sciences), Professor M Matravers, Professor J Thijssen, Dr C van Wyhe

CATEGORY I BUSINESS

M14-15/88 Welcome
The Chair welcomed members to the meeting.

M14-15/89 Distance Learning Provision
David Baker (SERO Consulting Ltd) attended for this item.

The Committee **received** an update on the consultation considering ways in which the University might grow its distance learning provision (UTC.14-15/**57**) in line with the objectives and vision set out in the University Strategy. SERO Consulting Ltd had been appointed and would oversee a series of meetings, interviews and focus groups, alongside case studies of other distance learning providers, before presenting options for expansion and possible models of delivery in April 2015.

During the discussion it was **noted** that:

- any future model of delivery should provide a comparable student experience and not compromise the reputation of the University;
- case studies were focused on distance learning provision at other HE institutions including the Universities of Derby, Edinburgh, Leeds, Oxford, Sheffield, and

Glasgow Caledonian. It was suggested that Leicester and Liverpool be added to the list. Members also **noted** that commercial competitors were an additional growth area and could also be considered;

- implementation of any delivery model would need to be considered in the context of the University and the different requirements of departments. It was **noted** that a 'one size fits all' approach would be unlikely;
- the consultants were aware of the University's collegial system and plans for a new Distance Learning College had been taken into account;
- requests for access to University information by SERO had to be approved by the Steering Group, which included the Chair of Teaching Committee;
- following the consultation period, UTC would have appropriate input into any future implementation.

M14-15/90 Minutes of the December meeting
The Committee **approved** the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2014 (UTC.14-15/**58**).

M14-15/91 Matters Arising from the Minutes
The Committee **considered** the matters arising from the Minutes (UTC.14-15/**58 Appendix 1**). With regard to M14-15/69 it was **noted** that the Chair had approved a change in title to Postgraduate Diploma in the Geology of Yorkshire and Northern England. All other matters had been closed.

M14-15/92 Oral Update from the Chair
The Committee **received** an oral update from the Chair as follows:

- The QAA had circulated consultation documents on assuring quality for international students and statements on degree characteristics, and HEFCE had circulated a consultation document on future approaches to quality assessment in HE. An email had been sent to members and others in January which included the dates of deadlines for each consultation. Members were reminded to send comments to the Academic Support Office: aso@york.ac.uk
- Professor Tom Stoneham had been appointed as Dean for the Graduate Research School.
- The University had been involved in the HEFCE funded Postgraduate Student Support (PSS) scheme, focussed on widening participation at PGT level. The project would end in Autumn 2015 and would report both internally and to HEFCE. The Postgraduate Taught Special Interest Group would be holding an event on 17 March 2015 to disseminate the interim findings of the project. Those interested in attending should contact Janet Barton: janet.barton@york.ac.uk . Under the scheme 60 scholarships had been made available in 2014/15. Planning Committee had decided that the University would support the same number of scholarships in 2015/16. The following year would see the introduction of a loan scheme for PGT students, open to students under 30 and to a maximum of £10,000. It would be repaid concurrently with an undergraduate loan.

- The 2015 National Student Survey was underway, and the current response rate was 22% (2% higher than at the same point in 2014).

M14-15/93 Oral Update from the Student Representatives

YUSU
The Committee **received** an oral report from the YUSU representative as follows:

- YUSU elections were underway, with the results expected later in the term. UTC would be informed of the successor to George Offer as YUSU's Academic Officer at the next meeting;
- As part of the NSS Improvement Groups, YUSU was working with student representatives to evaluate how departments respond to student feedback, and exploring how improvements could be made to Student-Staff Forums;
- YUSU was working alongside the GSA to provide a student submission to a consultation on the role and alignment of Languages for All (LFA);
- The Students v Staff University Challenge would take place on 25 February 2015.

GSA
The Committee **received** an oral update from the GSA representative as follows:

- The GSA would meet with the Dean for the Graduate Research School every two weeks. All Postgraduate Research handbooks were under review with the aim of ensuring greater consistency of provision;
- The GSA had raised the issue of a lack of specific training for PGWT on teaching students with disabilities. Discussions would take place with the Equality and Diversity Committee on how it could be better supported;
- Fortnightly drop-in tea and coffee sessions for Masters and Research students were being held, titled Café Masters and Café Research. Each session would focus on a different topic. Students had expressed a wish for coverage of research methods and the GSA would offer relevant sessions going forward;
- Work was progressing on the 'Mind your Head' initiative.

M14-15/94 York Law School and Department of Politics: LLM in Legal and Political Theory and MA in Political and Legal Theory
The Committee **considered** proposals from the York Law School and the Department of Politics for an LLM in Legal and Political Theory and an MA in Political and Legal Theory (UTC.14-15/**59**) to start in October 2015. The proposals had been reviewed in advance of the meeting by Mark Roodhouse and Chris Fewster, and had their support and that of two external assessors.

Following discussion, the Committee **decided** to approve the programmes, subject to:

a) further work on the learning outcomes to differentiate between the programmes;
b) removal of the module Toleration and its Enemies, as required by the Politics Board of Studies;

c) confirmation of the title for the Postgraduate Certificate exit awards (the programmes should have the same title, given they had the same requirements);
d) the programme teams discussing the programme with the Director of Careers, providing details of her comments and a response;
e) clarification of the intended market(s) for the programmes;
f) confirmation of the structure of the part-time versions of the programmes;
g) further consideration of the 6.5 IELTS score and the equivalence of other language qualifications;
h) confirmation of the governance and management arrangements for the two programmes.

It was also **noted** that the programme teams should be asked to further reflect on the following points in the wider context of Law and Politics' existing practices (programme approval is not subject to resolution of these points):
- further reflection on whether more varied forms of formative assessment could be incorporated
- further reflection on the ISM's word limit
- on the presentation of the research workshop as a zero-credit weighted element of the programme. Required elements of programmes should be credit rated/part of a credit rated module (e.g. part of the ISM).

ACTION: York Law School and Department of Politics

[**Secretary's note:** having received both Planning Committee and UTC approval, the programmes may now be advertised].

M14-15/95 Department of Music: MA in Music Education: Instrumental and Vocal Teaching
The Committee **considered** a proposal from the Department of Music for an MA in Music Education: Instrumental and Vocal Teaching (UTC.14-15/**60**) to start in September 2015. The proposal had been reviewed in advance of the meeting by Lesley Booth and Jan Hardman, and had their support and that of two external assessors.

During the discussion it was **noted** that:
- the programme lead had met with the UTC reviewers and QA contact prior to the meeting, and was working on minor amendments to the proposal following their recommendations
- the programme relied heavily on the programme lead and the Department would need to ensure that the relevant support and contingency plans were in place
- the programme would target mainly international students. Members considered that the required IELTS score of 6 should be increased
- the beginner, intermediate and advanced one-to-one teaching modules should be more clearly defined, to show progression of learning and a wider body of research and scholarship.

The Committee **decided** to approve the programme, subject to:

a) the required IELTS being increased to 6.5;
b) confirmation of the structure of the part-time version of the programme;
c) further consideration of the requirements of the PG Certificate exit award;
d) the timing of the progression board and reassessment being revisited;
e) further work on the assessments, as discussed with the UTC reviewers;
f) further consideration of the one-to-one teaching modules;
g) reassurances about the apparent reliance on one member of staff (including the breadth of input to the programme content and assessments)
h) addressing other minor points as discussed with the UTC reviewers.

ACTION: Department of Music

[**Secretary's note:** having received both Planning Committee and UTC approval, the programmes may now be advertised].

M14-15/96 Department of History of Art: BA in Curating and Art History
The Committee **considered** a proposal from the Department of History of Art for a BA in Curating and Art History (UTC.14-15/**61**) to start in October 2017. The proposal had been reviewed in advance of the meeting by Áine Shiel and Andy Young, and had their support and that of two external assessors.

It was **noted** that the programme had been approved 'in principle' by Planning Committee but was reliant on the appointment of a member of staff to oversee aspects including internships. This was part of a wider History of Art Recovery Plan which was due to be considered by Planning Committee in March 2015. UTC approval therefore would depend on the outcome of that decision.

During the discussion it was felt that the programme would be very attractive to students due to its vocational aspect and the Department's expertise in the field. Members **noted** that it was unclear whether the programme had been discussed with the Director of Careers, and more generally the importance of the Director of Careers being aware of the growing number of placements in Arts and Humanities departments in order to help to ensure that programmes would not compete against each other for regional placements.

Members questioned whether the assessment word count of the Group Exhibition Project was enough for a 20 credit module, and whether the focus mainly on ceramics at York Art Gallery could potentially limit the module's appeal. The Committee also discussed the Internship module, including whether 20 credits was appropriate for students and providers to gain value from the placements, how it would work in practice alongside other modules, and how the Department would manage the availability of placements.

The Committee **decided** to approve the proposal 'in principle', subject to:

a) reassurances about the Group Exhibition Project module;
b) the programme team discussing the programme with the Director of Careers, providing details of her comments and a response;
c) further details being provided on the Curatorial Internship.

The Committee **decided** to approve the 20 credit, Stage 1 module *The Art of Describing* as an exception to the University award regulations. The undergraduate framework for programme design did not allow for modules across Autumn/Spring term. In this programme the use of an Autumn/Spring module helped to spread the student work and assessment load.

The Committee also **noted** that the Department should be asked to:
- give further consideration to the formative assessment in the programme (noting that the proposal reflects current practice in the Department)
- make some additional minor edits to the programme specification, as discussed with the UTC reviewers.

A submission to the Committee for full approval, with these amendments, would be expected after the strategic plans for History of Art had been confirmed.

ACTION: Department of History of Art

M14-15/97 Annual Programme Review
The Committee **considered** a report on the outcomes from Annual Programme Review (APR) of 2013/14 (UTC.14-15/**62**). Members were thanked for their comments which had informed the report and resulting actions.

During the course of discussion regarding the APR process it was **noted** that:
- in general the reports seemed more reflective than in previous years
- some issues that members expected to see commented upon (such as employability, DLHE results) had not been raised across the reports
- it was difficult for departments to be open and reflective whilst capturing all issues, and departmental approaches to APR were varied
- members felt that departments had ongoing conversations around substantive issues throughout the year, and there was not necessarily a need to repeat previous processes for APR. It was suggested that the guidance could be re-emphasised to highlight ways departments could reflect more productively
- the APR guidance could be clarified regarding whether UTC departmental contacts were required to attend meetings
- it could be difficult to encourage active participation from students in APR meetings. It was suggested that YUSU could work with student representatives to inform them of the APR process and prepare them for meetings.

The Committee's comments on the process would be included in the QA Team's annual discussion with the Chair about the next year's APR proforma and guidance.

With regard to the summary report, it was **noted** that:
- the assessment issues outlined by Physics and Mathematics were longstanding and sector-wide (highlighted in the Maths subject benchmark). SCA would be asked to consider options that could be applied across the University. A member **noted** that

other institutions should be asked about the level of satisfaction of STEM subjects with their assessment rules (Action 3)

- departments would like to be able to view in their Exam Board reports the results of *all* students that had taken a particular module (irrespective of their programme of study) (Action 4)
- with regards to the Spring common assessment period there was a need to reduce the burden on the system, including redistribution of assessment, and consideration of tolerances (e.g., if the period could be extended and the cost of doing so) (Actions 5 and 6).

The Committee **decided** to approve the report and actions subject to the following edits:
- Assessment issues section – refer to STEM disciplines (not numeric)
- Action 4 – edit to read: "This should include consideration with SCA about whether *support for* moderation…."
- Addition of a note about Education's Bronze level in the Equality Challenge Unit gender equality charter mark.

The QA Team had compiled a table of issues raised that would be disseminated to relevant committees and central offices for consideration and action. An update on actions would be provided to the Committee in the Summer term. Departments, supplementary and validated programmes would receive an individual response to their reports.

ACTION: ASO to make edits and forward actions as required

M14-15/98 Update on Learning and Teaching
The Committee **considered** a draft update on the Learning and Teaching Strategy and other matters (UTC.14-15/**63**). The Chair had prepared a memo to all staff about progress on the Learning and Teaching Strategy and other developments, including Senate's endorsement of the Statement of Teaching Performance Expectations, the activity of the NSS Task Group, and requests from APR. Members were asked to comment on the memo before its release.

During the discussion it was **noted** that members of the Coordinating Group for Supplementary Programmes should receive the memo, and it was suggested that the labelling of appendices to the various documents would need further clarification.

The Chair **reported** that changes to the structure of the academic year would not be considered further in the short- to medium-term. It was **noted** that underlying issues with the academic year structure would still be present, and the Committee would work with departments to resolve these on a case-by-case basis.

ACTION: Chair

M14-15/99 International Pathway Programmes
The Committee **received** an oral report from the Project Manager and Academic Lead on the International Pathway Programmes. A procurement exercise was underway to identify a private provider to oversee recruitment and marketing of the programmes, which would provide international students with disciplinary, academic and language skills prior to

University. The International Pathway Programmes were expected to start in September 2016, with progression of students into departments in 2017.

The University planned to use an existing provider to test the market. During 2015/16 a small number of international students would study on pathway programmes in London, with University places guaranteed at York for 2016/17 if they met the requirements. Members **noted** this as a potential risk area due to implications for Tier 4 student visa applications. It was confirmed that the existing provider would issue the Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS) in the first instance, and the University would issue the CAS for students who progressed to York. Members **noted** that consultation with departments on requirements for entry and progression was due to start.

The Committee **decided** that the development of the programmes would be overseen by a sub-group that would report to UTC on progress and make recommendations on the final proposals. It was suggested that the sub-group should include at least one member familiar with Level 3 programmes. The Chair invited members to contact him if they had an interest in joining the group.

M14-15/100 York Award
The Director of Careers attended for this item.

The Committee **considered** a report on plans to redesign the York Award (UTC.14-15/**64**). In introducing the item, the Director of Careers noted that although the York Award was successful the positive benefits of the Award could be made available to more students through the redesign (at undergraduate, taught postgraduate and postgraduate research level). At present the Award often came too late for undergraduate students and was too restrictive for postgraduate taught students, as it required them being an undergraduate at York. It was hoped that the new model would address these issues while also boosting the York Award's profile with postgraduate research students.

It was envisaged that under a new structure the York Award would become available to a much larger number of students, and play a more important role in the University's employability agenda. The proposed structure would contain three tiers, emphasising different elements of development and employability at each stage, and would be linked to the colleges.

During discussion members **noted** that:
- parity of opportunity within the different colleges would be important and the possibility of a 'core' element was being explored to ensure this
- Career's would be meeting with the Dean of the Graduate Research School about the Award for postgraduate research students, including how it would fit with other skills activities
- consideration was being given to how the redesigned award would be assessed particularly in the transition period.

The Committee **decided** to endorse the plans and encouraged further development. The final proposals would be considered at a future meeting.

M14-15/101 Election of Course Representatives
The YUSU Student Engagement Development Coordinator attended for this item.

The Committee **considered** a joint report from YUSU and the GSA on the election of course representatives for 2014/15 (UTC.14-15/**65**). The Committee thanked YUSU and the GSA for the joint report, and **noted** the good working relationship between the two.

During the discussion it was **noted** that YUSU and the GSA were looking to improve communication with departments before and throughout the election process. The 2014/15 process had been affected by IT problems during the nominations period, and the APR process had also raised issues in certain departments related to the timing of elections and how they had been administered previously. It was **noted** that YUSU and the GSA wished to continue to work with departments to address problems, rather than hand over oversight of the process. They would be contacting the departments that had raised issues in APR (see Action 13 in UTC.14-15/62).

CATEGORY II BUSINESS

M14-15/102 Learning and Teaching Strategy
The Committee **noted** that members' comments and feedback from the 10 December 2014 strategy meeting were being used to inform the drafting of the new Learning and Teaching Strategy.

M14-15/103 Modifications and Withdrawals
The Committee **received** a report on modifications to, and withdrawals of, programmes of study approved by Chair's Action between December 2014 and January 2015 (UTC.14-15/**66**) as follows:

> *Biology:* Approval to withdraw the following taught postgraduate programmes from 2015/16: MSc in Ecology and Environmental Management; MSc in Computational Biology and Bioinformatics; MSc in Post-Genomic Biology; MSc in Bioscience Technology.
>
> Approval to split the 20-credit Stage 2 module 'From Gene to Function' into 2 new 10-credit modules ('Molecular microbiology' and 'Eukaryotic gene expression') with the same learning outcomes. The modification was for 2015/16 onwards, and would act to directly replace 'From Gene to Function' with the 2 new modules on all affected Biology and Natural Science programmes / streams (with the exception of Biomedical Sciences, for which 'Eukaryotic gene expression' would become core, and 'Molecular microbiology' optional), and would remove the requirement in the BSc Biology that students had to take a 20-credit option in Stage 2. As the change created

10 modules in a stage for several Biology routes, this granted an exception to the modular framework rules on the maximum number modules per stage.

Computer Science: Approval of a modification to Stage 3 of undergraduate and integrated masters programmes to withdraw the 'Enterprise Architecture' module and replace it by a new module in 'Designing and Maintaining Software', to take effect from 2015/16.

Economics: Approval to revise the exam format for Introduction to Accountancy stage 2 option module for January 2015 assessment and for students taking the module from 2015/16 onwards. Approval also to revise the learning outcomes of the module from 2015/16.

Education: Approval of the Department's request to consider an application for a student to start the PhD TESOL in April 2015 after the programme was originally approved to start October 2015. Approval also for the Department to consider any further applications for an earlier start to this programme.

Electronics: Approval to amend Stage 4 of all integrated masters programmes to make some optional modules mutually exclusive within the programme and timetable, to ease pressure on the timetable whilst preserving popular module combinations, to take effect from 2015/16 for Stage 4 students.

Approval to amend Stage 4 of all integrated masters programmes so that students on industry-based projects take an 80-credit ISM project module instead of a 60-credit ISM and 20-credit Industrial Option module. The change would take place from 2015/16 for Stage 4 students. Those students not taking an industry-based project would not be affected.

Approval of a modification to the MSc Audio and Music Technology to combine two 10 credit modules in the Autumn Term and two 10 credit modules in the Spring Term to form two new 20-credit core modules with identical learning outcomes, to take effect from 2015/16.

Approval of modification to MSc Internet and Wireless Computing to remove 'Multimedia Applications' module and replace it with a module on 'Sensors and Implementation', with associated change in programme learning outcomes, to take effect in 2015/16.

Approval of modification to MSC Digital Systems Engineering to remove 'Multimedia Applications', 'Introduction to MATLAB' and 'Introduction to Project Management' modules and replace them with a module on 'Integrated Circuits Design and Simulation' (with associated change in programme learning outcomes), to take effect in 2015/16.

Approval of modification to MSc Communications Engineering, so that the 10-credit core module 'Further Internet Protocols' is withdrawn and the 'Signal Processing for Communications' module is expanded from 10 to 20-credits, an expansion also reflected in the options available for the MSc Digital Systems Processing, to take effect from 2015/16

Approval of the withdrawal of the MEng Avionics programme from 2016/17 entry.

Approval of the temporary suspension of the MSc Autonomous Robotics Engineering for 2015/16. (Electronics and Computer Science)

Environment: Approval of the following 'year in industry' programmes (all will be available from 2015/16):

- o   BSc / MEnv Environmental Science with a year in industry
- o   BSc / MEnv Environmental Geography with a year in industry
- o   BSc / MEnv Environment, Economics and Ecology with a year in industry
- o   BA / MEnv Human Geography and Environment with a year in industry

Health Sciences: Approval to suspend in-year the PG. Certificate Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and the BSc / Graduate Diploma Cognitive Behavioural Therapy applied to Physical and Mental Health Problems programmes.

Approval of free-standing 20-credit module Advancing Technologies in Diabetes Care (Level 7).

History of Art: Approval of a modification to Stage 2 undergraduate option modules. From 2014/15, students taking History of Art option modules in Spring/Summer would be assessed by two 1500 word essays, due in Week 5 of Summer term. This replaced a two hour closed exam.

Mathematics: Approval of introduction of new Computational Finance module as a core module in the Spring Term of the MSc Statistics and Computational Finance programme, to take effect from 2015/16 (with associated reduction in optionality in that term).

Music: MA in Music: Approval of new 20 credit module "Critical Reflection in Music Practice", to replace 10 credit skills modules from 2015/16. Approval of Postgraduate Certificate and Postgraduate Diploma for entry from 2015/16.

Politics: Approval of modification to MA Conflict, Governance and Development; MA in International Relations; MA in International Political Economy and MA in Public Administration and Public Policy, to reduce ISM from 100 to 60-credits and add 40 taught credits (so that students take two 20-credit options in Autumn and Spring Term instead of one), with effect from 2015/16.

Approval of modification to MA Political Philosophy from 2015/16 to reduce ISM from 100 to 60 credits and add 40 taught credits (so that students take two 20-credit options in Autumn and Spring Terms instead of one); and move the 'Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy' module from core to optional, with effect from 2015/16. The modification acted to amend the programme learning outcomes, and as a result the programme was retitled the MA Political Theory.

Approval of modification to MA Political Research, to reduce the ISM from 70 to 60 credits; move 'Personal and Professional Skills' from being a core module to uncredited training; and add 20-credits of optional modules in Spring Term.

Approval of changes to the Erasmus Mundus Masters in Public Policy with immediate effect, as follows:

- Extend the oral defence date to the last week in August. Oral defences will be arranged by Skype.
- Extend the dissertation due date to 1 July 2015 (the same date as that of IBEI, our other second year institution).
- Extend the York programme end date to 31 August 2015.

York Law School: Approval of a change of name of LLM in International Corporate and Commercial Law to LLM in International Corporate Governance and Commercial Law for the 2015/16 entry.

York International Foundation Programme: Retrospective approval to revise the York International Foundation Programme to include a full Access qualification and IFP units for the cohort that started in September 2014. Approval to amend the method for determining the final result of the programme and minor changes to the English Language and British Culture units.

M14-15/103 External Assessor Comment Form
The Committee **noted** that the External Assessor comment form for postgraduate research programmes had been revised to make it more research-degree focused. The minor changes had been approved by the Chair. The form was available at
https://www.york.ac.uk/staff/teaching/programme-development/research-degree-programmes/

M14-15/104 Exchange Agreements
The Committee **noted** that the Chair had approved the following exchange agreements:

- between the Department of Politics and the Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen to commence in 2015.
- between the Department of Computer Science and Vrije Universiteit in Brussels for MSc projects, to commence 2015/16.

- between the York Law School and the School of Law, Singapore Management University, Singapore, to commence 2015/16.

M14-15/105 PSRB: Department of Social Policy and Social Work
The Committee **received** reports from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) and The College of Social Work (TCSW) on accreditation and recognition of the Department's social work programmes, the Department's responses, and the final sign-off letters from the PSRBs (UTC.14-15/**67**).

M14-15/106 Periodic Reviews and Other Visits: External Assessors
The Committee **noted** that the Chair had approved the following external assessors:

- for the Periodic Review of the Department of Environment: a new external assessor, Dr Simon Lightfoot from the University of Leeds, to replace Professor Selina Stead who was unavailable
- for the Periodic Review of the Department of English: Professor Patricia Waugh, University of Durham and Professor Peter D McDonald, St Hugh's College University of Oxford.

M14-15/107 Periodic Reviews and Other Visits: National Science Learning Centre
The Committee **noted** that, owing to changes in programme timings, the revalidation visit for the National Science Learning Centre's Postgraduate Certificate in Science Education and Leadership; Postgraduate Certificate in Primary Science Education and Leadership and University Certificate in Science Education and Leadership would be held in the Summer Term 2015 rather than Spring. Further, it had been agreed to cancel the planned Summer Term 'health check' for the NSLC's validated Postgraduate Certificate in Understanding and Leading Early Years Science due to a lack of students on the programme (this programme was due to undergo full revalidation in 2015/16).

M14-15/108 Subject Benchmark Statements
The Committee **noted** that the Environment Department had considered the revised QAA subject benchmark statement for Earth sciences, Environmental sciences and Environmental studies (November 2014 Board of Studies). The Department was happy with the changes to the statement and had agreed that no changes were needed to its teaching programmes as a result.

M14-15/109 Future Meetings
The Committee **noted** that dates of the next meetings (all at 1.00pm):

- Thursday 12 March 2015 in HG21, Heslington Hall
- Thursday 14 May 2015 in HG15, Heslington Hall
- Thursday 18 June 2015 in HG21, Heslington Hall