

University of Exeter Business School
Department of Accounting

Minutes of the Department Meeting held on Monday 24 November 2008

Present: Prof Richard Jackson (Chairman), Prof Rachel Baskerville, Prof David Gwilliam, Dr Chen Lim, Dr Kevin McMeeking, Mr Bill Peng, Dr Amama Shabbir, Dr Brian Wright and Mrs Christine Down (Secretary).

1) Welcome and apologies

The meeting started with apologies from Paul Collier and Aris Solomon. Richard Jackson welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular, Dr Amama Shabbir as a new joiner.

2) Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were recorded as fair and accurate, subject to **Kevin McMeeking** liaising with Chris Down regarding a few typos.

3) Staffing / recruitment update

Advertisements for Chair and Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer have been posted and the presentations and interviews for the Chair will be on December 8th. There is a strong field of candidates applying for the Chair. Not so for the AP/SL, so a further advert was put out for a lecturer – for which presentations and interviews are planned for 12th December.

- Bill Peng has applied for a permanent lectureship.
- An advertisement will go out in the New Year for 2 Teaching Fellows to start in the autumn.
- The contract of Aurel Kucani (Associate Teaching Fellow) has been extended until the end of May, with a possibility of extending it again until June 2009.
- Brenda Porter will be joining the department as a visiting Professor from March 2009 for four months.
- Professor David Gwilliam has agreed to take over from Aris Solomon as the department's head of PGR students and from Rachel Baskerville as Departmental Director of Research.

4) REF targets

Given the University's (evolving) expectations regarding the REF, there are now requirements on research-active staff to seek research funding and to supervise research students to completion in regulation time, in addition to the requirement for high-quality research publication. There is likely to be an increase in the number of PGR supervisions required of staff.

The ROM exercise for 2008, conducted on a calendar year basis, focused on research income and PGR supervision; leaving consideration of research publication to later years.

Kevin McMeeking will liaise with David Gwilliam and Tim Coles re: promoting Accounting PGR and supervision, our PGR strategy, etc.

5) UG update

a. External examiner's comments

A draft document had been circulated by Richard Jackson regarding the External Examiner's comments (with our responses) relating to our 2007-2008 examinations. The External Examiner would like to:

- receive draft / early-stage module reviews along with exam scripts
- receive detail of tutorial attendance and non-attendance along with exam scripts
- be able to reconsider the marks of BEA2003 scripts for borderline finalist students at the 2009 summer exam board

b. Continued degree programme development

- BEA2003 and BEA3001 are the next two modules to be considered as part of our ongoing programme review and development. In each case, a split of the present 30-credit module into two 15-credit modules is mooted. **Paul Collier, Chen Lim and Amama Shabbir** will consider further, and provide a short paper with recommendations.
- The group considered the possibility of swapping the timing of BEA2002 Taxation (to move to final year) with BEA3004 Corporate Law (to move to second year); but decided against this pending consideration against the backdrop of the revised second year versus final year weighting for degree purposes.

c. UG student numbers and mix

A document had been circulated by Richard Jackson which highlighted the massive growth in the number of accounting undergraduate students and the high proportion of Chinese and Southeast Asian students. Various issues were highlighted as follows:

- The 2008-2009 incoming Accounting cohort was 52% Chinese / other East Asian students. This proportion is likely to rise in 2009-2010.
- INTO have launched a Diploma programme, from which a number of students are expected to feed directly into our second year. **Paul Collier** is to act in a liaison / assessment quality control capacity on our behalf in dealing with the INTO modules which seek to mirror our first year modules (see below).
- Brian Wright has been successful in recruiting students from Nanjing, and we now have the 2+2 programme – which will feed its first cohort of students into our second year in 2010-2011.

d. INTO Diploma

A document had been circulated Richard Jackson regarding the INTO Diploma year scheme.

Paul Collier is appointed the department's INTO Liaison Officer and will run the department's "clearing house" regarding all INTO modules which seek to mirror BEA-prefixed modules. Paul will be asking different module co-ordinators for their opinion on INTO Diploma exam papers, etc. The key papers this semester and next semester are:

BEA1005, BEA1006, BEA1007 and BEE1022 (concerning the last of these, Bernard Pearson has agreed Paul Collier should deal).

Paul Collier will liaise with Emma Jeanes and Alison Wride, concerning assessment of INTO Diploma modules this year (September and January cohorts). Logistical matters and a desire for consistency of process between the cohorts may mean that, for example, INTO will not want even the September cohort to take our MCAP exam in the summer. **Paul Collier** will let Emma Jeanes know exactly which CV elements he would like to review in respect of the INTO teachers. There is some HR concern that CVs may not be provided wholesale.

Chen Lim will assess the implications of the INTO Diploma / associates systemic second year entry for the accreditation / re-accreditation of the Department's modules/programmes.

Chen Lim will liaise with Roz Pardee concerning impact of systemic entry to our second year of INTO Diploma students on accreditation by professional accountancy bodies. RJ has explained in brief to her that we will need to run this by five professional bodies; since systematic entry of students with non-Business School modules is a departure from our previous system of individual review of second year entry applicants.

e. Teaching delivery

A discussion was held as to how the accounting modules should best be delivered in the future, given the increasing number of students expected onto the accounting degrees. Medium-sized group workshops were suggested to replace some small group tutorials; however, concerns as to quality and student satisfaction pertain.

6) PGT update

a. PGT student numbers and mix

Brian Wright informed the group that last year there were 28 PGTs on the MSc Accounting and Finance, whilst this year the number has doubled. Last year there had been 230 applications in total; there have been 118 already this year, with 61 offers having been made. Based on these figures, it appears there will be a much enlarged cohort in 2009-2010.

b. Dissertation supervision

Because of the high volume of work, it was suggested that the supervisor's role should be limited to some extent. If Aurel Kucani continues with us through June 2009, he may become a full time dissertation mentor. **Bill Peng** is liaise with Brian Wright and Aurel Kucani and produce a paper on a structure to take the students from their current position to submission of dissertations; and how we will distinguish clearly between an Xfi 45-credit and an Accounting 60-credit dissertation (this last point having been raised by the External Examiner).

7) PGR update

Paul Collier attended a PGR meeting and the following points were raised: (i) There seems to be a misconception within the university about the time limit for the completion of PhDs. The

impression is that there is a 4 year limit for submission of the PhD, when in fact it should be completed within 3 years, with the 4 year limit being for the Dean's sign-off once the PhD has been awarded; (ii) The university's target seems to be that academic staff overall have 2.24 PhD students each.

8) Meeting with Jessica Whall, ICAEW

- ICAEW have a new Partnership in Learning website.
- ICAEW recruitment of Exeter students into member firms: ICAEW have realised that students have increasingly gone elsewhere because other accountancy bodies offer more exemptions for accredited degrees. They are willing to come to the university to give more talks and promote ICAEW member firms. **Chen Lim** to check with Paul Collier about what incentives ICAEW are offering in this regard.
- Business case study for students: ICAEW are keen to offer to our students, for fun, an extra-curricular business/management case study. **Chen Lim** to liaise.
- Certificate in Finance, Accounting and Business. ICAEW are willing to award our accounting graduates the CFAB, subject to their passing a short, graduate-level add-on course taken at the end of the final year. **Chen Lim** to liaise with Paul Collier to decide whether or not department wants to run this course.
- New 'trust you' light touch on our accreditation – i.e., they trust us.

9) Any other business

Richard Jackson to produce a new workload allocation, which will include Aurel Kucani and Brenda Porter for semester 2.

Signature..... (Chair)

Date.....