

University of Exeter Business School
Department of Accounting

Minutes of Department Meeting
9.30am, Thursday 16th July, 2009 in Xfi Seminar Room C

In attendance: Richard Jackson (Chairman), Paul Collier, David Gwilliam, Aurel Kucani, Chen Lim, Kevin McMeeking, Bill Peng, Brenda Porter, Amama Shabbir, Brian Wright, Christine Down (Secretary).

1. Welcome and apologies

All full time / academic Departmental faculty were in attendance. The autumn 2009 joiners, Joanne Horton, Jim Marks and Petros Vourvachis, had been invited but were unable to attend.

2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The minutes were approved for signature by the Chair. **All staff** to apprise Christine Down on the status of their actions as per those minutes.

3. Staffing / recruitment update

We record our thanks to the following staff who have left the University, with our best wishes for their futures:

- Aris Solomon, SL (moved to Canada, November 2008)
- Rachel Baskerville, AP (moved back to New Zealand, February 2009)
- Huw Rhys, P/T SL (on leave from February 2009, thence fully retired)

We are delighted to welcome the following, joining the Department for 2009-2010 onwards:

- Joanne Horton as Chair in Accounting (presently at LSE)
- Jim Marks as Teaching Fellow in Accounting (presently at Exeter College)
- Petros Vourvachis as Lecturer in Accounting (presently at Kingston University)

We are also delighted to note the addition / elevation / continuation of the following members of the Department:

- Aurel Kucani as permanent Associate Teaching Fellow in Accounting
- Bill Peng as permanent Lecturer in Accounting
- Brenda Porter as Visiting Professor of Accounting – who will be joining us again in 2010, from late January to mid June

- Kevin McMeeking promoted to Associate Professor with effect from 1st September 2009

We presently have two additional posts for Chairs in Accounting agreed. In this respect, we are using a search agency over the summer in an effort to expand the application list obtained in June via traditional advertisement. Finally, we will be seeking agreement for an SL post (since Kevin McMeeking, an internal candidate, obtained the previously agreed AP post). [Addendum since the meeting. We will be seeking agreement for a second SL post, to fill the vacancy which will be left by Brian's departure – see below].

The Departmental load allocation was recently circulated by Richard Jackson. This will be complemented by a marking allocation early in 2009-2010. Please note that the allocation(s) will be subject to addenda or amendment for some/all of the following: (i) addition of PGR / PGT supervisions; (ii) changes required as a result of actual student numbers experienced October; (iii) changes required as a result of changes to staffing; and (iv) changes highlighted as required when the allocation is fed into the School workload allocation model (WLAM), which is presently under development.

Finally under this item, Brian Wright announced that he intends to resign from the University subject to his receipt of a final offer letter from Nottingham Ningbo, China. The meeting congratulated Brian on his new job and wished him well for the future.

4. UG module and programme reviews (including programme structure going forward)

Paul Collier gave an update on his liaison with and monitoring of the INTO Diploma programme (as regards its feeding into our second year). Paul has been broadly satisfied with standards. The Diploma grades required for progression into our second year are to be increased. Paul Collier has agreed to continue as Departmental INTO Liaison Officer for 2009-2010, which **Richard Jackson** is to record in the Departmental load allocation.

Brian Wright gave an update on the performance of Nanjing students who have been with us as JYA or second year entry students; and on the first two cohorts of Nanjing 2+2 students (being around 40-50 students each; the first of which is expected to join our second year in 2010-2011). From brief inspection of results, the Nanjing students seem to have performed very well indeed. Brian Wright suggested that in his stead Departmental Nanjing Liaison be established in the Department, to work with the incoming Director of International Partnerships re: Nanjing. **Richard Jackson** to establish this role in the Departmental load allocation.

Chen Lim and **Amama Shabbir** are to monitor performance and progress of the following sub-cohorts: Nanjing students; INTO Foundation (first-year entry) students; and INTO Diploma (second-year entry) students. Some analysis performed by Bernard Pearson re: BEA1022 pertains, which **Richard Jackson** is to provide to Chen Lim.

BEA2003 (30-credit) will be replaced from 2009-2010 onwards by BEA2006 and BEA2007 (15 credits each). **Paul Collier** to find out whether or not Business and Management students

will be required to take BEA2007 (the second and more mathematical of the two new modules).

The ordering of final year modules BEA3005 and BEA3006 will be reversed from 2009-2010, with BEA3006 in semester 1 and BEA3005 in semester 2.

Chen Lim presented a full draft policy paper concerning our part 2 students taking part 1 modules. **All staff** are to submit their ideas on this matter to Chen Lim as a matter of urgency. **Chen Lim** and **Amama Shabbir** will then create a final paper over the summer with a view to implementation in 2009-2010 for all our second and final year students (NB. transition provisions pertain).

Brenda Porter presented a paper on the timing of BEA2004 versus BEA3006. The proposed swap of auditing into the final year and governance into the second year was generally regarded as desirable, albeit there are logistical constraints. **Amama Shabbir, David Gwilliam** and **Kevin McMeeking** are to provide their comments on this to Chen Lim; **Chen Lim** and **Amama Shabbir** to cover the matter in the forthcoming programme reviews.

Richard Jackson and **Kevin McMeeking** (the latter as Departmental representative on Learning and Teaching Committee) have reviewed all module feedback reports, and will be holding meetings where necessary with coordinators to ensure key adjustments are made.

All 2008-2009 UG module coordinators are to complete their full module reviews by the end of August 2009; to be sent to pertinent programme directors, programme administrators, student services and Roz Pardee. **All 2010-2011 module coordinators** are to review and revise (as necessary) module outlines, obtaining approvals where necessary for changes by the end of August 2009. Outlines to be sent to pertinent programme directors, programme administrators, student services, Roz Pardee, Helen Connole.

Chen Lim and **Amama Shabbir** are to conduct the programme reviews for our BA programmes by the end of September 2009, to subsume module reviews, next stages in programme development, sub-cohort (Nanjing, INTO) performance, etc.

5. PGT module and programme reviews (including programme structure going forward)

Brian Wright informed the meeting that around 35 students from Nanjing were likely to register on the MSc in Accounting and Finance for 2009-2010; and Bill Peng said that deposits for the 2009-2010 programme had already reached around 109 (with acceptance of deposits about to close), with the majority being from East Asian / Chinese students. This represents a continuing compound growth rate in student numbers of around 100% per annum.

There was discussion around the implications of this growth in student numbers upon the quality and resourcing of the programme. In particular, the issue of a large increase in the number of masters level dissertations required was discussed. Bill Peng presented an outline paper on one possible future route for handling the dissertations, which provoked

considerable debate. **All staff** are to submit their ideas on this matter to Bill Peng as a matter of urgency. **Bill Peng** and others concerned with the running of the MSc will then create a final paper over the summer with a view to implementation for the 2009-2010 cohort. The MSc Accounting and Finance dissertation will be effectively reserved only for our own students by having our compulsory MSc modules as pre-/co-requisites (**Bill Peng** to implement).

Brian Wright spoke regarding his module BEAM025 Advanced Management Accounting. Students had struggled with the module; and there is a feeling that the module title belies the fact that the syllabus is largely upon operations research methodology. It was Brian's strong suggestion the module syllabus be revised to have a larger proportion of management accounting.

All 2008-2009 PGT module coordinators are to complete their full module reviews by the end of August 2009; to be sent to pertinent programme directors, programme administrators, student services and Roz Pardee. **All 2009-2010 module coordinators** are to review and revise (as necessary) module outlines, obtaining approvals where necessary for changes by the end of August 2009. Outlines to be sent to pertinent programme directors, programme administrators, student services, Roz Pardee, Helen Connole.

Bill Peng is to conduct the programme reviews for our MSc and MRes programmes by the end of September 2009, to subsume module reviews, the dissertation discussion, etc.

Bill Peng is to monitor the extent of MSc A&F offers / admissions not conforming to policy; and follow the performance of students admitted outside policy versus those admitted within policy. This with a view to tightening the application of offer/admission criteria, or the Department attempting to re-take control of our PGT admissions. **Bill Peng** will investigate the amount of work required to perform this monitoring retrospectively regarding the 2008-2009 cohort; and, if agreed by David Gwilliam that the effort is not too onerous, will undertake the retrospective review.

6. PGR update

David Gwilliam had been the previous day to the School PGR meeting, and provided a general update the Department. There are no PGR number targets yet established at individual academic level, but a University norm of 2.24 PGRs per research-active member of staff has been mooted. Richard Jackson noted that in the Departmental load allocation, first supervisors are credited with 90% supervision, second supervisors with 10% (believed to be more appropriate to the Department than is the 75%-25% ROM norm split).

All PGR supervisors are urged to keep clear records of supervision activity (using Excel and/or Outlook), to enable easy compliance with PGR / supervision monitoring requirements. **Departmental probationary lecturers** are not expected to take on first supervision of PGRs in their first couple of years, but are expect to pick up some second supervision. If such probationers wish to make an offer in their first couple of years to be

first supervisor to a PGR, they must obtain the prior approval of their mentor and the Head of Department.

7. Future meetings and away day

Not yet planned, so to be announced by **David Gwilliam**. In due course, **Joanne Horton** (who has agreed to become Departmental Director of Research) to lead on organisation of a Departmental research away day.

8. Any other business and next meeting

Brian Wright expressed how much he had enjoyed being a part of the University for nine years, and wished the Department well for the future.

David Gwilliam thanked Richard Jackson for his work over the last four years as Head of Department and wished him well for his forthcoming research leave.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.07am.

Chairman

Date