

Meeting of the Academic Board

2.00 pm on Wednesday, 31 October 2018
in 1B27 - Technopark, SE1 6LN

Agenda

<i>No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Pages</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
11.	Academic Board Annual Report	113 - 118	PB

Date of next meeting

2.00 pm on Wednesday, 13 February 2019

Members: Pat Bailey (Chair), Asa Hilton Barber, Craig Barker, Janet Bohrer, Patrick Callaghan, Kirsteen Coupar, Charles Egbu, Sajjad Hossain, Paul Ivey, Nelly Kibirige, Janet Jones, Sarah Moore-Williams, Jenny Owen, Shushma Patel, Lesley Roberts, Warren Turner and Shân Wareing

Apologies: Ian Albery and Tony Roberts

In attendance: Claire Freer

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	INTERNAL
Paper title:	Academic Board annual report
Board/Committee:	Academic Board
Date of meeting:	31 October 2018
Author(s):	Claire Freer, Governance Assistant
Sponsor(s):	Pat Bailey, Provost
Purpose:	For Approval
Recommendation:	The Board is requested to recommend the report to the Board of Governors.

Executive Summary

The Academic Board is responsible for academic standards and the direction and regulation of academic matters. Where the Academic Board delegates responsibility it maintains oversight through reports from the Student Experience Committee; from the Quality and Standards Committee; and from the Research Committee.

In this document we provide assurance for the development of academic strategy, monitoring progress against academic key performance indicators; demonstrate the oversight of the development of the academic environment; demonstrate the oversight of academic ethics; report on the approval of the academic regulations and oversight of their enactment; and report on the granting of academic titles.

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During the year to 31 July 2018, the Academic Board was chaired by the Provost, Professor Pat Bailey, and met three times during the year. Two joint strategy days were held for members of the Academic Board and Board of Governors.

1. HEFCE Quality Assurance Report

The Academic Board reviewed the quality assurance report to HEFCE at its meeting on 1 November 2017. The Board confirmed that the appropriate internal quality assurance processes had been completed and that standards are appropriate. The Board recommended the Annual Provider Review to the Audit Committee which reviewed it on behalf of the Board of Governors.

2. Quality and standards assurance

The Academic Board received the Quality and Standards review for 2016-17. The Academic Board discussed work planned in 2017/18 to continue the assurance of quality and standards at LSBU. The Board received the Institutional Examiner report that reported on the progress of recommendations made following the first visit of the Institutional Examiner in February 2017.

The Academic Board discussed the National Student Survey results for 2017 and the quality of student experience. The Board explored initiatives to improve the student experience and discussed the importance of the student voice.

3. Key performance indicators

The Academic Board reviewed the academic KPIs at each meeting.

4. Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

LSBU was awarded a silver classification for “delivering high-quality teaching and outcomes for its students”, and consistently exceeding “national quality requirements for UK higher education”. LSBU participated in the TEF subject level pilot during the course of 2017/18. By participating in the pilot LSBU was

able to help shape development of the process, gain insights into what was likely to be expected of institutions, test LSBU's own readiness for subject level TEF and begin preparations in the University and the Schools.

5. Educational Framework

The Academic Board discussed the embedding of the Educational Framework within the curriculum. The template for course specifications had been amended, to allow for the Educational Framework to be fully embedded, and to ensure that it better aligned LSBU to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) guidance in relation to course specifications.

6. Attainment Gap

The Academic Board discussed LSBU's data on the gap in attainment of good degrees (1st and 2:1s) correlated to race. Through the work of the Equality Diversity and Inclusion team and the Centre for Research Informed Teaching, LSBU was developing guidance, support and staff development for universal curriculum design which improves participation, engagement and outcomes for students at present at risk for demographic reasons of poorer outcomes.

7. Academic Regulations

The Academic Regulations of the University provide the means through which the standards of the University's academic awards, including research degrees, are assured. The Academic Regulations are supported by a number of procedures which clarify the way in which the university ensures that students are fairly treated. The Academic regulations are agreed each year by Academic Board. Suggested amendments are received from staff and academics across the University and then discussed at QSC.

Amendments to the Academic Regulations were approved by the Quality and Standards Committee in May 2018 and then approved by the Academic Board in June 2018. The Academic Regulations for 2018/19 continue to use the Crystal Mark 22140. The revised regulations and associated procedures were published on the LSBU website and can be found at <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/about-us/policies-regulations-procedures>

8. Academic portfolio and environment

The University's quality processes underpin the academic approval process and the way LSBU assures the maintenance of academic standards, quality and enhancement. In 2016/7 a university procedure was introduced to prioritise courses for approval according to their likelihood to recruit based on their strategic importance, market information, and the level of risk (impact on resources) that they represent.

The Academic Board reviewed the programme for new course approval, revalidation and partnerships for 2017/18, and the courses approved for academic approval and to proceed to validation to recruit for September 2018. The Board discussed assessment innovation and the need to review and develop alternative forms of assessment, and the role of the Course Director and possible steps to better support the role.

The Academic Board discussed a review of the postgraduate taught portfolio and discussed the need for periodic review to prevent the proliferation of courses and to be reactive to changes in the market, and the development of clear paths of progression from undergraduate courses that link into postgraduate taught courses and then into postgraduate research programmes.

9. Ethics

The Academic Board reviewed the annual Ethics Report at its meeting on 6 June 2018 which stated that the Ethics Panels were running well. Functionality was being built into HAPLO to support applications and from September 2018 all applications would be processed through HAPLO. The Board noted the importance of training and support, in particular for those moving into a supervisory role.

10. Research

The Academic Board discussed LSBU's strategy for the Research Excellence Framework (REF) submission in 2021 at its meeting on 21 February 2018. The University seeks to deliver a substantial improvement in its performance in the REF, raising its Grade Point Average (GPA, where 4.0 represents a perfect score) from the 2.52 attained in 2014 to ≥ 2.80 in 2021. A code of practice was being developed to identify and support LSBU staff who had significant responsibility for research.

11. Joint strategy days with Board of Governors

The Academic Board held two joint strategy days with the Board of Governors in September 2017 and April 2018. Topics covered included: the new regulatory framework and the Office for Students, financial planning for the future, recruitment, retention and completion, and the student experience in higher education.

12. Appointment of professors

The Board noted the appointment of one emeritus professor in 2017/18.

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