



Academic Board

10 December 2021

MINUTES

1. Attendance and apologies

1.1. Present:

Naomi Goulder	Acting Dean of Faculties (Chair)
Brian Ball	HoF for Philosophy and Head of Research [until 14.30]
Rosalind Barrs	Registrar (Secretary)
Diana Bozhilova	HoF for Politics & IR
Mollie Charge	Head of Admissions [in attendance]
Chris Gallagher	Vice Chancellor for Global Learning Opportunities, NU [from Item 4.]
Lars Kjaer	HoF for History [until 14.58]
Michele Longhurst	Head of Quality Assurance [in attendance deputising for BM]
Peter Maber	Acting HoF for English
Alice Schneider	HoF for Law

1.2. Apologies

Catherine Brown	HoF for English [On leave]
Marianna Koli	Dean for Education in Business and Economics and HoF for Economics
Phi Mackness	President NCHSU
Bex Morrison	Director of Academic Services
Uta Poiger	Dean of College of Social Sciences and Humanities, NU
Scott Wildman	Assistant Vice President for Digital Innovation & Enterprise Learning

1.3. Notice of meeting

1.3.1. Notice of this meeting had been given to all members.

1.3.2. No members declared any conflict or potential conflict of interest.

1.3.3. The meeting was quorate for some items.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

2.1. The Minutes of 29 September 2021 were **APPROVED**.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Matters arising were updated.

3.2 18 May 2021 Action 12 Student Support and Development appointments: It was reported that English students and PG students were still reporting some delays. DB queried the implication of expectations to reply/respond to students out of office hours from the following advice given in a recent NCH Bites: 'In the event that you have contact with a student out of hours - over a weekend, evening or over the Christmas or Easter break, who is experiencing mental health difficulties please refer them to the Spectrum Life Student Assistance Helpline 0800 0318227 (freephone).'

ACTION: NG to clarify message about out of hours responses with SMT.

4. Policy against remote participation in on-ground synchronous sessions

In the light of worsening pandemic conditions and the possibility that not all students may be able to return to campus for the first few weeks of Hilary term, Academic Board was asked to consider whether students should be given synchronous remote access to synchronous group sessions where technology permits.

After much discussion, taking into consideration the outcome of consultation with Student Representatives whereby they had consistently expressed a desire not only for the College to continue with on-the-ground teaching (in line with government policy) but also for the College to offer remote participation in synchronous group sessions, the following was **AGREED** (subject to professional staff confirmation that they could manage the approvals process):

Students will typically be able to Zoom into large group teaching sessions (e.g. groups of more than 12; items labelled 'lectures' in CELCAT) remotely if they have approval through SSD/Covid reporting.

Students will typically be able to Zoom into smaller group teaching sessions (esp. 2-5 students) remotely if they have approval through SSD/Covid reporting.

Students could already Zoom into 1:1s remotely if they chose.

5. Academic Strategy

5.1 Academic Strategy

A short summary of overall strategic initiatives would be circulated to the College community by the Executive Committee on 15 December. It was presented to Academic Board as an item 'to discuss and approve (with any conditions or recommendations)', emphasising that the academic elements were all either (i) already approved in previous Academic Board meetings, or (ii) mentioned at a high level of generality which would inform academic workshops and committees to generate paperwork to go to Academic Board for approval at a later date.

5.2 NCH Diploma in context of Academic Strategy

5.2.1 Exemption from the NCH Diploma

Some students would like exemption, on the basis that they find it stressful (or at least distracting) to combine the NCH Diploma with their degree studies (which are already full-time). It is envisaged that the Diploma in its current form will be phased out, as more experiential and other opportunities are integrated into our credit-bearing degrees. The Board was asked whether students should be allowed to withdraw from the Diploma for the above type of reasons meanwhile.

The meeting was not quorate for this item. Those present **RECOMMENDED** that the students be allowed to withdraw.

[Subsequent to the meeting, members who had been absent had been consulted and no objections were presented, and the Principal and Founder also agreed, and so the recommendation was **APPROVED**.]

5.2.2 2022 entry students

The meeting was not quorate for this item. Those present **RECOMMENDED** that the NCH Diploma remain advertised and offered, but it is not described as compulsory or required.

[Subsequent to the meeting, members who had been absent had been consulted. Objections were raised with a request for consultation with the NCH Diploma Team, followed by a full board discussion.]

ACTION: NG to liaise with Anthony Grayling (Principal and Founder) and Ioannis Votsis (NCH Diploma Coordinator).

6. Academic Structures

The summary of the consultation process and resulting plans was presented as 'To discuss and approve (with any recommendations)'. Though the Board was not quorate at the time of the item, all members of Academic Board had been given opportunities to express any concerns or suggestions via the separate consultation process. In due course, Academic Board will be asked to consider whether there is a case for providing any of the new roles with *ex officio* membership.

7. Policies and Procedures, and Strategies

7.1 Careers Guidance, Internships, Work-Based Learning Policy (revised)

The meeting was not quorate for this item. Those present **RECOMMENDED** that the revisions be approved.

[Subsequent to the meeting, members who had been absent had been consulted and no objections were presented, and so the revisions were **APPROVED**.]

8. Programme/Course Approvals and Modifications

8.1 NCHNULW448M Criminology; NCHNULW452M Crime Media and Politics

8.2 NCHNUEC467M Statistics; NCHNUEC468M Principles of Macroeconomics; NCHNUEC455M Financial Accounting and Reporting

8.3 NCHNUHI449M The World Since 1945

8.4 NCHNUPIR457M Current Issues in Cities and Suburbs; NCHNUPIR451M Global Markets and Local Cultures; NCHNUPIR450M People and Cultures; NCHNUPIR454M Introduction to Sociology

DB pointed out that the title of NCHNUPIR450M is Peoples and Cultures.

8.5 NCHNUPH456M Developmental Psychology

The meeting was not quorate for Items 8.1. to 8.5. Those present **RECOMMENDED** that the courses be approved.

[Subsequent to the meeting, members who had been absent had been consulted and no objections were presented, and so the courses were **APPROVED**.]

9. Quality Assurance

9.1 Subject External Examiner Annual Report: Work Related Learning

The report was **NOTED**.

9.2 Student Satisfaction Report

The report was **NOTED**.

9.3 Mobility Students Association (ToRs) (revised)

The meeting was not quorate for this item. Those present **RECOMMENDED** that the revisions be approved.

[Subsequent to the meeting, members who had been absent had been consulted and no objections were presented, and so the revisions were **APPROVED**.]

10. Assessment

10.1 Assessment of technical proficiency in written English

The item was **DEFERRED**.

11. Any other business

There was no other business.

12. Chair's Actions were **NOTED**.

12.1 Student Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures

Change of title from 'Master' to 'Dean of Faculties' for the appeal process.

12.2 Students Under 18 Policy

Minor edits to names and insertion of 'legal' before 'guardian'.

12.3 English Qualification Equivalencies

Changes throughout the document in line with prior Academic Board approval of a shift to IELTS 6.5 overall (6.0 in each component) equivalents.

12.4 Admissions complaints policy and procedures

Minor edits to names.

12.5 Admissions feedback policy

Change of address.

12.6 Code of Conduct Freedom of Speech

Minor changes to include bullying and harassment policy and antisemitism reference. New review date.

12.7 Misuse of Substances

Minor changes to titles and inclusion of links to college policies and new review date.

13. Dean's update

There was no new business.

14. Work related learning

14.1 Update on Multiverse Partnership

There was no new business.

14.2 Update on EDGE activity, including apprenticeship provision

There was no new business.

15. Careers Report

There was no business.

16. Dates of next meetings

28 January 2022

18 March 2022

16 May 2022