



## Academic Board

### 18 March 2022

---

#### MINUTES

#### 1. Attendance and apologies

##### 1.1. Present:

Naomi Goulder	Acting Dean of Faculties (Chair)
Saxony Anders	President NCHSU
Brian Ball	HoF for Philosophy and Head of Research
Carolyn Barker	Head of Research Services (secondment) [in attendance]
Rosalind Barrs	Registrar (Secretary)
Diana Bozhilova	HoF for Politics & IR
Chris Gallagher	Vice Chancellor for Global Learning Opportunities, NU
Lars Kjaer	HoF for History
Peter Maber	Acting HoF for English
Bex Morrison	Director of Academic Services
Alice Schneider	HoF for Law
Jacqueline Shorrocks	Interim Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs [co-opted]
Diana Waters	Executive Assistant [in attendance]
Scott Wildman	Assistant Vice President for Digital Innovation & Enterprise Learning

##### 1.2. Apologies

Catherine Brown	HoF for English [On leave]
Mollie Charge	Head of Admissions
Marianna Koli	Dean for Education in Business and Economics and HoF for Economics

Uta Poiger

Dean of College of Social Sciences and  
Humanities, NU

- 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.
2. Minutes of the last meeting
  - 2.1. The Minutes of 28 January 2022 were **APPROVED**.
3. Matters arising
  - 3.1. Matters arising were updated.
  - 3.2. [26.2.2021 Action 1] Maths entry requirement for Economics majors  
A report from the Course Leader had been provided.  
[Redacted-restricted information] This will be included in the course and programme reviews.
  - 3.3. Asking Academic Board to update their own matters arising at the 'call for items of business' stage has not been working effectively.  
  
**ACTION: NG to review the process for matters arising with DW.**
4. Project '23
  - 4.1 NG reminded Academic Board that part of the project was for the 2023 entry residential undergraduate students to benefit from being part of the global network and the NU system. Furthermore, we want to facilitate the mobility of students between the two locations, potentially offering validated double degrees where students obtain both UK and US qualifications.  
  
One of the key elements is to make the major, or the main degree, be defined by a lower number of course credits, thereby enabling students to take their degrees in combinations, including a combined major. This would also open up scope pathways that have more disciplinary features. Additionally, it is proposed that the non-credit bearing core curriculum competencies of the NCH Diploma are integrated into the credit-bearing provision.  
  
Academic Board will have the opportunity to review and discuss the principles and the proposed programme documentation at the May meeting and others, as pre-approvals need to be made by Academic Board by June/July 2022.
  - 4.2 PB reported that TLEC, chaired by the Assistant Director of Academic Services, had discussed Project '23 at a meeting on 15 March. (Minutes were not yet available but would be circulated to Academic Board.) Many questions were raised with regards to the process. One particular issue had been the self-study classes. NG explained that

these had only been proposed bearing in mind courses which potentially could clash in the timetable or are classified as small cohorts. BM said more discussion was required because of the UKVI requirements for minimum contact time and the expectation that students are meant to be on campus for classes.

**ACTION: BM to follow up on the circulation of the TLEC Minutes.**

**ACTION: NG to look at self-study.**

- 4.3 Academic Board formally requested that i) MARV present a strategy of how to support the marketing of the new degrees, and ii) that market research data and Boston 2021/22 data of enrolment combinations be circulated.

**ACTION: NG to liaise with the Director of Marketing about the provision of a marketing strategy.**

**ACTION: NG to circulate a summary of the market research data.**

- 4.4 SA was asked for the student perspective. SA said that Project '23 was interesting to students, for the pathways that are different from the current ones, but there were some concerns that their degrees might no longer be offered. NG said that, if we are increasing the number of subjects on offer, then there are going to be so many combinations. We are not looking to offer only majors that are worth 180 credits – some of the pathways would enable students to take more courses that are rather purely in that major or at the intersection between that major and other subject areas. CG reported that combined majors have been a real boom for NU, and that they allow students to align with what they want to do postgraduation.

**ACTION: NG to include how students choose their own pathway through the combination of degrees to the documentation.**

## 5. Assessment

### 5.1 Assessment Strategies 2022/23

The Assessment Strategy Review Working Group for Project '23 is currently looking at participation as part of the mobility courses, and whether to continue with this form of assessment for 2022/23.

It was **NOTED** that Heads of Faculty have been asked to be conservative about any changes to courses for 2022/23 delivery.

### 5.2 Final Undergraduate Graduation 2021 Results

[Redacted- restricted information].

NG said that they were a strong set of results and the comparative data had been reassuring. The data for each subject would be considered during programme reviews.

5.3 Postgraduate 2021 Results

[Redacted - restricted information]

BB said the results were good and that it would be useful to see the comparative data.

**ACTION: RB to brief Registry to provide comparative data, if available and meaningful, for the May Academic Board.**

5.4 Technical proficiency in written English: Recommendation 2

PM and RB reported that TLEC had not had a strong view on this.

It was **AGREED** that, for written assignments (coursework, portfolio, reports, etc.), where the use of word processing and associated tools is available, and for handwritten examinations, 5% of the assessment element mark will be allocated to the assessment of technical proficiency in written English.

5.5 Level 6 Dissertations to be a 'must pass' and not an assessment element for consideration of compensation

TLEC had not favoured this, and MK had suggested at the meeting that a Dissertation should be treated as any other 30-credit course in order to deny the temptation to prioritise at the expense of other courses.

It was **NOTED** that not all current UG programmes have a Dissertation as part of the programme's assessment, but Dissertations would be part of the Project '23 considerations.

6. Procedures, Policies and Strategies

6.1 Staff Training and Development Strategy (revised)

Academic Board was asked to send any comments to NG by Monday 21 March.

The revisions were **APPROVED**, subject to any substantial comments being received.

6.2 Terms of Reference: Fair Access and Participation Strategy Group

Academic Board was asked to send any comments to NG by Monday 21 March.

The revisions were **APPROVED**, subject to any substantial comments being received.

7. Programme/Course Approvals and Modifications

7.1 BSc and MSc Digital and Technology Solutions Programmes modifications

RB, the Head of Quality Assurance and PM had met on 3 March and recommended the modifications for approval by Academic Board.

The modifications were **APPROVED**.

7.2 NCHEC444 Calculus for Business

RB, the Head of Quality Assurance and LK had met on 18 March and recommended the modifications for approval by Academic Board.

CG was concerned that, if the first examination were removed, students would not always know where they were in terms of their grades. He was reassured that the formative assessment on this course would provide that.

The modifications were **APPROVED**.

8. Research

8.1 Tier 1 research applications

BB reported that a small, but good quality, number of applications had been submitted and were currently being reviewed by the University.

8.2 Visit by the Senior Vice Provost for Research

The SVP had visited the College during Reading Week, and they had shown a willingness and desire to scale up and support research opportunities at the College.

8.3 Research Support and Development

CB is on a three-month secondment from the EDGE team, and she will be involved in developing the infrastructure required to support research at NCH, and in working with the Research Committee, academic staff and Northeastern to advise, grow and promote research activity, in particular external funding.

She has determined that we are not eligible for funding from UK RCs because we are not in receipt of government money for research. CB is actively exploring other opportunities. Leverhulme will be visiting the College in the next few months.

CB is working with the media team to increase our research presence on the web, and on Twitter.[Redacted- restricted information]LK hoped that 40% of time can be carved out for research.

9. Any other business

There was no other business.

10. Chair's Action was **NOTED**.

2022-23 Offer Conditions Proposal

A paper from Martin Smith, Assistant Vice President for Recruitment and Marketing for Global Campuses, had been circulated by email to

Academic Board on 2 February and it had also been considered at a Heads of Faculty meeting.

After this consultation, the proposals were approved by Chair's Action:

[Redacted - restricted information]

11. Dean's update

There was no new business.

12. Work related learning

12.1 Update on Multiverse Partnership

There was no new business.

12.2 Update on EDGE activity, including apprenticeship provision

**ACTION: SW to send notes on EDGE activity to RB to circulate to Academic Board.**

13. Careers Report

**ACTION: SW to send notes on Careers Report to RB to circulate to Academic Board.**

14. Prevent Staff Training

This item was **DEFERRED**.

15. Date of next meeting

16 May 2022