26  MINUTES
Received and confirmed:
26.1 The minutes of the meeting of 6 March 2013 (AB 19 – 2012/13).

27  REPORT TO GOVERNORS
Received and noted:
27.1 The report to Governors of the Academic Board meeting of 6 March 2013 (AB 20 – 2012/13).

28.  MATTERS ARISING
Noted:
28.1 That Professor Matthew Innes’ nomination to replace Professor Philip Dewe as Vice-
Master from 31 July 2014 was approved by the Governors.

29  MASTERS REPORT
Reported by the Master:
29.1 (i) That preparations were continuing for REF. Letters have been sent out to those
excluded from REF clarifying the reasons and asserting that it is based on what has
been published rather than what is due to be published. Subsequent publications may
merit reconsideration of an individual at a future date;

(ii) that recruitment to four-year courses remained in decline. The importance of
demonstrating value for money was highlighted. Efforts will continue in lobbying
politically. Higher Education Wales is continuing with their intentions to offer loans and funding. A meeting with the Nick Hillman, Special Advisor to the Minister of State for Universities and Science was planned where we intended to push for our needs, and argue for the distribution of funds from Wider Participation into part time funds. Work on Part Time Matters was continuing.

(iii) that three-year degree courses were recruiting well. The new number control limits were in place and must be reached to continue to demonstrate demand in this area. A bid for catalyst funding was submitted which would investigate how three-year courses are progressing and the feasibility of a one-year Masters.

30 ACADEMIC BOARD GOVERNOR’S REPORT
Received and noted:
30.1 A summary of the Governor’s meeting of 19 March. This was in place of the Academic Board Governor’s oral Report as the Governor’s representatives were not present at this meeting (AB 28 – 2012/13).

31 ACADEMIC BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Received and confirmed:
31.1 The minutes of the meeting of 29 May 2013 (AB 21 – 2012/13).

32 RESEARCH COMMITTEE
Received and noted:
32.1 The report of the Research Committee meeting of 2 May 2013 (AB 22 – 2012/13)

Reported by the Pro-vice Master (Research):
32.2 that the Committee first discussed signing up to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers in 2008, but did not pursue this; this oversight became apparent when drafting environment narratives for the REF, the guidance for which suggests referring to the Concordat. Signing up to the Concordat is unlikely to be controversial, but the College will need to consider how to implement; this will be considered by the Research Strategy Working Group.

Agreed:
32.3 The following proposals were approved by Academic Board;

• To sign up to the Concordat to Support the Career Development of Researchers;
• To establish the Research Strategy 2014-17 Working Group;
• To establish the Centre for Sustainable Working Life

33 STUDENT EXPERIENCE & WIDENING PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE
Received and noted:
33.1 The report of the Student Experience & Widening Participation Committee meeting of 7 May 2013 (AB 23 -2012/13).

Reported by the Pro-vice Master (Student Experience):
33.2 That Access Agreements will become more important and a key document in outlining the College’s approach to Widening Participation. The Retention Strategy comes to a conclusion next year and the outcomes will be considered in due course.
Agreed:

33.3 The following proposal was approved by Academic Board;

- To establish a Widening Participation Strategy Working Group to reflect on the Retention Strategy and work toward developing a formal Widening Participation Strategy.

34 TEACHING & QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

Received:

34.1 The report of the Teaching & Quality Enhancement Committee meeting of 9 May 2013 (AB 24 – 2012/13)

Reported by the Pro-Vice Master (Learning & Teaching):

34.2 (i) That we are working in times of change. A paper will be presented at the next meeting which outlines the strategic direction of learning and teaching for the forthcoming year.

34.3 (ii) That the Centre for Transformative Practice in Learning and Teaching has been established and will begin work in October. It will formally launch on 6th November.

Agreed:

34.4 The following proposals were approved by Academic Board;

- To establish a Three Term Learning Programme Steering Group;
- That provision be made for resit examinations to be offered on Saturdays, with suitable alternative arrangements made for students who cannot sit examinations on Saturdays for religious reasons;
- That a consultation exercise on term dates be undertaken to consider whether terms should be extended in future years;
- To approve the regulations for the BA Spanish & Latin American Studies, BA and Diploma in Philosophy and BA, Dip HE and Cert HE Philosophy, delivered under the University of London International Programmes system;
- To approve the recommendations for programme approval, amendment and withdrawal made by the College Programmes Committee.

35 PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Received:

34.1 The proposal to approve in principal the use of the College’s Degree Awarding Powers (AB 25 – 2012/13)

Reported by the College Secretary (Director Of Administration):

34.2 (i) That the initial reason for obtaining degree awarding powers was a defensive strategy, however going forward it would now be a general principal to use these powers as a tool especially in the support of the development and delivery of online programmes involving external collaboration and partnership.
34.3 The following proposal was approved by Academic Board;

- To approve in principle the proposal of the use of Degree Awarding Powers to facilitate a partnership with an external provider to offer online learning.

36 COLLEGE BOARDS OF EXAMINERS REPORT
Received and noted:
36.1 The annual report from the Four College Boards of Examiners (AB 27 – 2012/13)

Agreed:
36.2 The following proposals were approved by Academic Board;

- To establish a quorum for the College Boards.

- To ask Schools to consider re-organising their postgraduate sub-boards of examiners for example through merging smaller sub-boards.

37 CHAIRS ACTIONS
Received and noted:
37.1 Details of actions taken on behalf of the Board by the Chair since the Board’s last meeting (AB 26 – 2012/13).

38 DATE OF NEXT MEETING
Noted:
38.1 That the next meeting of the Board would take place on Thursday 28th November 2013.