

The University of Manchester

Board of the School of Natural Sciences

1pm – 3pm Wednesday 18th May 2022, Rutherford Lecture Theatre, Schuster Building

Refreshments will be served after the meeting outside the Lecture Theatre

Agenda

1. Chairs Business **1:00 – 1:10**
 - a. Minutes from the previous meeting held on 06.04.22
 - b. Matters arising:
 - Travel Insurance Update (**Shirley Chui**)
2. SEP Cohort 3 Update **1:10 – 1:30 (Steven Olivier, Wayne Keating & Lorna Dawson)**
3. Update from Head of Research (**Ian Kinloch**) **1:30 – 1:50**
Including: SEP structure for PGR (**Wayne Keating**)
4. Head of School Update (**Chris Hardacre**) **1:50 – 2:10**
 - a. FCM Update
5. Items from the Departments (led by **Chairs of Department Fora**) **2:10 – 2:20**
 - a. MECD issues
6. Items from the Student Reps (led by **Student reps**) – no items notified **2:20 – 2:30**
7. Update from Head of School Operations (**Sam Ryder**) **2:30 – 2:35**
8. Update from Head of Education (**Andrew Horn**) **2:35 – 2:45**
 - a. Semester 2 Assessments
9. Update from Head of EDIA (**Giles Johnson**) **2:45 – 2:50**
10. Report from Senate (**Philippa Browning and other Senate reps**) **2:50 – 2:55**
11. AOB **2:55 – 3:00**
12. Date and time of next meeting – September, date to be confirmed

Reports

Head of Research Report

Head of EDIA Report

Head of School Operations Report

Head of Education Report

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

UNAPPROVED MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH APRIL AT 2PM, ZOOM

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|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Adam Davis (he/him) | Darren Shepherd | Jen Lockhart | Michael Garrett | Sam Shaw |
| Agate Stranka | David August | Jian Lu | Michele Curioni | Sandra Crosbie |
| Aimie Lambert | David Collison | Jiashen Li | Mike Birse | Sandra Gogacz |
| Alan Brisdon | David Hall | Jitesh Gajjar | Mike Turner | Sarah Cartmell |
| Aleksey Yerokhin | David J. Lewis | Jo Cartwright (she/her) | Mozaffar | Sarah Wright (she/her) |
| Alex Cook | Dean Thomas | Joao Fonseca | mtfssso2 | Sasha Grigorenko |
| Alex Eggeman | Donald Robertson | Joe Holder | Mykola Gordovskyy | Sean John Freeman |
| Alice Bowen | Doyin Mansell | John Warren | Natasha Irwin | Sebastian Herrmann |
| Allan Matthews | Drupad Trivedi | Jon Martin | NF Morrison (he/him/Neil) | Segun oke |
| Amanda Aspinall | Ed Caffyn-Parsons | Jonathan Bagley | Nicholas Chilton | Simeon Gill |
| Amy Benstead | Elanor Hough | Jonathan Skelton | Nick Weise | Simon Webb |
| Amy Rigby | Emily Sayle | Jordi Bures | Nikhil Aggarwal | Stefan Güttel |
| Andrea Taylor | Emma Owen | Josh Snape | Oliver Rigby | Stefan Soldner |
| Andrei Golov | Emma Pemberton-Eccles | Judith McGovern | Pamila Sharma | Stephen Doyle (he/him) |
| Andrew Elvin | Eric McInnes | Julian Mecklenburgh | Paul Brierley (he/him) | Stephie Tsai (she/her) |
| Andrew Gordon | Fan Gao | Julie Thompson | Paul Johnson | Steve Edmondson |
| Andrew Hazel (he/him) | Fiona Lynch | Kamil Gufar | Paul Walmsley | Steve Liddle |
| Andrew Horn | Francesca Moss | Karen Rogers | Penny.Bartlett-OBoyle | Steve Pettifer |
| Andrew Regan | Francis Watson | Katharine Wright | Perdita Barran | Stuart Christie |
| Aravind Vijayaraghavan | Gareth Morris | Kaylum McCann | Peter Cunane | Sue Tizini |
| Aurelie Le Normand | Gemma Coleman | Kevin Jackson | Philippa Browning | Theodore Papamarkou |
| b76779nc | Gemma Lyons | Kieran Flanagan | Ping Xiao | Tom Shearer (he/him/his) |
| Barbara Waters (she/her) | George Whitehead | Laura Richards | Polly | Valerie Bruyr |
| Bart van Dongen | Gianpaolo Vignali (he/him) | Lee Fielding | Qizhen | Vicky Coker |
| Beatriz Mingo | Gordon McFiggans | lisa taylor | R Dryfe | Vincenzo Bongiorno |
| Beth Taylor | Guillaume De Bo | Lloyd Cawthorne | Rachel Flint (she/her) | Wayne Keating |
| Bobbie-Ann Jones | Guoxing Xia | Lorna Dawson (she/her) | Rachel Studd | Xiaogang Chen |
| Brian Connolly | Henggui Zhang | Louise Wood-Sanna | Raj Tandon | Xiaorong Zhou |

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|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Bryony Quick (she/her) | Henry LI | Lucy Adams | RAJESHKUMAR MOHANRAMAN | Xinye Chen |
| Charles Darko | Hugh Gong | Lydia Norman | Rebecca Cross | Xuqing Liu (he/his) |
| Charlotte Hooson-Sykes | Hugo Ricketts | margot Power | Rhian Jones | Yang Han |
| Chris Hardacre | Huw Owens | Mark Coleman | Richard McGee | Zhening Yang |
| Chris Johnson | Igor Larrosa | Martin Coram | Richard Winpenny | zhenjie cao |
| Chris Knight | Imogen Riddell | Masnuna Chowdhury | Rob Sansom (he/him) | |
| Chris Muryn | Ingo Dierking | Mbessdao | Robert Cernik | |
| Chris Muryn | Inigo Vitorica | Mcdssde | Robyn Dale (she/her) | |
| Chris Race | James Allan | Md. Israil Hossain (Rafi) | Romain Tartese (He/Him) | |
| Christopher Conselice | Jamie Gilmour | Mdnmszst | Roshila Moodley | |
| Conrad Goodwin | Jamie Gooding | Melanie Mcloughlin | Rosy Boardman (she/her) | |
| Daniel Shipman | Jamie Tibble | Michael Faulkner | Sally Brown | |

| Item No. | Item | Action By | Date Due |
|----------|--|-----------|------------------|
| 1 | Chairs Business | | |
| a | <p>It was raised that the previous minutes stated there was no update provided by AH on how long student must sign into the new attendance monitoring system, but an update was provided. The Chair agreed and the update is to be added to the previous minutes.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2022 were approved noting the change above.</p> | | |
| | Matters Arising – Update on Actions from previous meeting | | |
| b | <p>CH to find out if the FLT and SLT minutes can be made available to staff in the School. Outcome/ update: <i>Complete</i> - An SLT Summary each month will be uploaded to Staffnet. It was confirmed that FLT will not publish minutes.</p> <p>A consultation with the Chair of the school Board and the chairs of the departmental forums will take place when setting the dates and time of the School Board for the Academic Year 2022 – 2023. <i>Action: Philippa Browning</i></p> <p>Check guidance on mask hygiene is on Staff net and send out a communication. <i>Action: Complete: CH circulated the relevant links to the mask guidance on Staff Net</i></p> <p>CH to circulate responses to questions raised on the FCM in the meeting on 12th January 2022. <i>Complete: A Q&A has been uploaded to Staff Net</i></p> | PB | Sept 2022 |
| | Matters Arising – Questions from Zoom chat | | |

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| c | <p>Why has no progress been made on the use of funded rather than costed FTE on grants (eg STFC) in the FCM? CH confirmed that Ian Cotton has communicated the answer to this question with Head of Department in P&A and CH read out the response. A further question from the Board was raised that this was not what was included in the methodology. CH confirmed that what is in Pure will be in the FCM.</p> <p>A discussion on FCM to be an agenda item at the next School Board meeting</p> <p>For the DTA allocation PhD students and it is not very evident. Can we have an action to clarify what is being done on the student P codes? and how we can see the reports on them. Action: CH to circulate further information.</p> | PB | May |
| 2 | <p>MECD Updates 5 (Emma Pemberton-Eccles, Lydia Norman)</p> | | |
| | <p>A presentation was shared in advance of the meeting outlining MECD workspace and moves, TLSE, Operational highlights and IT updates.</p> <p>Sandra Crosbie confirmed the following groups in the Department of Materials have moved into MECD, Analysis, Composite Analysis, NDT, Robotics, Textiles and Fibre Processing. They are currently in the process of moving MEC Test One from James Light Hill, Composites Polymer processing and EM suites. People moves will begin on 9th May and the first group to move from Natural Sciences is Fashion, Business and Textiles on the 16th of May. The slide desk provides information on the moving process.</p> <p>The Chair invited feedback and any questions from School Board members. Key points raised verbally and in the chat function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlighted that staff need the ability to project or share a screen to all of the workstations within the computer cluster, currently have to use Zoom link to share the screen. <i>Answer: Teaching spaces user guides available. Handheld microphones are available.</i> The Materials X-Ray Defraction Lab is due to move soon and some machinery has already gone to MECD but there water pressure problem in the basement and it was asked whether it has been fixed? <i>Answer: Sandra Crosbie to check</i> Is the secure bike parking, showers for bike/run commuting, available yet? <i>Answer: The active travel hub is available, and it has secure bike parking and showers which can be accessed by staff and PGRS. Once the workspace opens there will be showers and drying spaces on the third floor.</i> Are local induction for the MECD EM Centre available and how can staff be added to the waiting list? <i>Answer: Technical inductions are run locally. Staff will need to complete the MECD building induction</i> It was asked whether the Blended Learning Theatres could have a board for writing ideas down during discussions with students, could this be provided? <i>Answer: Two visualizers have been installed into both blended lecture theatres for semester two</i> Is there is funding from Faculty to provide free sanitary products for the other buildings in addition to MECD? | | |

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| | <p><i>Answer: It was confirmed that this is a funded pilot as part of with the Directorate for the Student Experience. Staff can contact Katie Urnevitch in the central team to express interest in being involved.</i></p> <p>It was confirmed that there will be two interactive totems installed at both entrances of MECD. At the workspace entrances and in the atrium, there will also be a Microsoft teams phone to contact anyone within the workspaces. The user journeys are currently being mapped out.</p> | | |
| 3 | Finance and “where the faculty contribution goes” (Gemma Lyons) | | |
| | <p>Gemma presented a Finance update on financial sustainability. The Chair invited feedback and any questions from School Board members. Key points raised verbally and in the chat function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you think it is a good idea to run all these IT/change projects at once, or would it be better to run them sequentially? <i>Answer: Cannot answer on behalf of IT</i> • Where does the 10% surplus figure comes from? Why not 5% or 15%? <i>Answer: The finance plan determines what is needed to generate of surplus</i> • Can we have more detail of the £21m to be spent on flexible learning? <i>Answer: PB – A presentation on Flexible Learning is to be an agenda item at the next meeting</i> • A member of the board highlighted that increased funding from some research grants particularly for technical staff and academic staff is a good idea, however it should be highlighted that salaries appointing technical staff are not market rate. • It was confirmed that 58 million invested for SEP is new funding • A member of the board raised concerns that the presentation highlighted long standing lack of investment in infrastructure (e.g HR systems, IT systems and finance systems) , and a focus of funding buildings rather than staff although “buildings don't teach people”. They suggested that this financial strategy has contributed to the inability of the university to offer an acceptable pay rise to staff in the face of current significant cost of living increases. | | |
| 4 | Timetable Project (Steve Pettifer) | | |
| | <p>Steve gave a presentation on the new Timetabling Project. The following key points were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching has changed and we need a timetabling system to reflect these changes. • We now have more staff, students, and programmes, which requires more space and a system able to deal with an evolving university. • The Project is going to design and agree common process and policy for timetabling works for all the three faculties to consider the needs of the disciplines that are involved and result in the best possible timetable that we can manage for staff and students. <p><u>Project Summary</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline and unify the timeline, process and policies relating to timetabling across the three faculties. • Distribute flexible working more fairly. • Capture the requirements of teaching so that we can generate the best possible timetable each year. • Result in a smoother process leading to a better timetable. | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will be done in a constructive, collaborative way. <p>The Chair invited feedback and any questions from School Board members. Key points raised verbally and in the chat function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the timeline? <i>Answer: The timetabling teams will be moved around under SEP. Therefore, the anticipation is towards the end of 2022 in time for academic year 23/24</i> What matters to people delivering face to face materials is that they know the timetable far enough in advance to plan things, this is not happening for both semesters in 21/22. <i>Answer: It is hoped that the team can get to a working timetable earlier in the year so that staff and students have the information.</i> In recent years I have been scheduled to teach in three different buildings with some of the same students having to move around with me for their next class with me, will this be addressed? Can the journey time be added to the system? <i>Answer: Our journey time is included in the optimization process.</i> What input would you like from us? <i>Answer: There'll be a three-stage survey circulated in due course.</i> | | |
| 5 | Issues from the Student Rep (led by Student reps) | | |
| | <p>Jamie Gooding, Student Rep in P&A raised the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request from students that communication on the summer exams is circulated with enough notice to avoid delays that occurred for the December 2021 exams <i>AH advised that it has been factored in and communications will be more effective</i> In relation to the timetabling project, students would prefer to not have additional restrictions with option choices | | |
| 6 | Head of School Update (Chris Hardacre) | | |
| | <p>CH presented a verbal Head of School update, key points include:</p> <p><u>EDIA Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Sciences has been awarded a Silver Athena Swan Covid Relief Fund has been launched and the results to date are: 12 applicants received in December 2021 – three awarded; 4 applicants received in March 2022 – two awarded. <p><u>President and Vice-Chancellors visit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> President and Vice-Chancellors visit took place on Tuesday 15th February, one issue raised was the closure of the café provision in the Alan Turing Building. <p><u>Board of Governors visit</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Governors visit took place on the 22nd March 2022, one issue raised was the workload associated with blended learning and staff morale. <p><u>Travel Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been significant issues with the Key Travel service which is being addressed. Staff are advised to contact the Department Operations team who will be able to assist with bookings. The frequent travel credit card should not be used. The University insurance will cover all university travel, but risk assessments still need to be completed, for high risk countries staff should email fse.safety@manchester.ac.uk and get in touch with the Safety advisors. The promotions process is ongoing and cases will be considered at faculty committee in May. | | |

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| | <p>The Chair invited feedback and any questions from School Board members. Key points raised verbally and in the chat function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A request for staff to be given support to enhance student engagement and there should be a mechanism of feedback for staff. <i>Outcome: CH to take this on board and have a think about how to move forward.</i> When attending a review panel abroad, are we covered by the university insurance? <i>Answer/outcome: If you are representing the university, it is university business and it will be covered by university insurance. Action: CH to check this is correct and will try to get a statement from the Insurance office to confirm.</i> If frequent travel card cannot be used to book travel, what it can be used for? <i>Answer: It can be used to book travel from abroad only for emergencies.</i> | CH | May |
| 7 | Issues from the Departments (led by Chairs of Department Fora) | | |
| | <p><u>Tabled Motions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion from Materials: The Departmental Forum rejects the "University Statement of Teaching Expectations"; The "University Statement of Teaching Expectations" needs substantial revision and a longer process for open staff discussion, engagement, and input <p>Action: Rob Sansom to collate feedback and send to CH/PB as this is to be tabled at Senate.</p> <p>It was noted by Department of Materials Forum Chair that the general view from Materials was that there were several good points raised in the document, but that they were not properly explained. There was a discussion on the document, in which some board members pointed out that they had not had a chance to discuss the document in advance, and one member reported that their Department had serious concerns about several aspects of the document.</p> <p>The University statement of teaching expectations need substantial revision. Vote outcome:</p> <p>69 – for 1 – against 13– abstained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion from Chemistry and Earth Sciences: This School Board endorses the proposal to return TLSE office and staff to the Department and allow walk-up student enquiries on discipline-specific matters. <p>Motion was passed by Chemistry Forum and EES Forum. There was a wide ranging discussion in which several Board members from different Departments endorsing the motion, and pointed out the importance of students being able to access support within their Departments. It was noted that SR, WK and SO have had discussions with the Head of Departments and Student hubs. The current position is that this will go ahead but will be monitored throughout the next twelve months with ongoing conversations with department heads. There has been mixed feedback from students about the new hubs but there will be ongoing promotion of the hubs.</p> | RS | |

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| | <p>This School Board endorses the proposal to return TLSE office and staff to the Department and allow walk-up student enquiries on discipline-specific matters.</p> <p>Vote outcome:</p> <p>57 – for</p> <p>8 – against</p> <p>6 - abstained</p> | | |
| 8 | Update from Head of School Operations (Sam Ryder) | | |
| | Report circulated before the meeting. No questions raised by the School Board. | | |
| 9 | Update from Head of Education (Andrew Horn) | | |
| | <p>Report circulated before the meeting. The Chair invited feedback and any questions from School Board members. Key points raised verbally and in the chat function:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was meant by putting everything into 12 weeks, particularly as our first semester isn't 12 weeks it's 11 teaching weeks. <i>Answer: 11 is 12 in this context, it was the duration of the taught part of the Semester. There are a number of course units that are delivered across six weeks, instead of 12, this could strengthen the possibilities for interdisciplinary unit that can work across different programs.</i> Will the same approach to mitigating circumstances be applied to semester two exams as was applied to semester one? <i>Answer: Yes</i> | | |
| 10 | SEP Cohort 2 Refresh (Wayne Keating, Steven Olivier) | | |
| | Papers and slides circulated before the meeting. Wayne Keating gave a brief verbal overview. The Chair invited feedback and any questions from School Board members. No questions raised by the School Board. | | |
| 11 | Reports from Head of Research and EDI | | |
| | Written reports circulated. | | |
| 12 | Report from Senate (Philippa Browning and other Senate reps) | | |
| | Written report circulated. | | |
| 13 | AOB | | |
| | No items raised | | |
| 14 | Date and time of next meeting – 1pm – 3pm, 18th May on campus | | |

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

REPORT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT BY: Ian Kinloch, School Head of Research

MONTH: May 2022

| School Priority | On agenda (Y/N) |
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| REF | |
| <p>Congratulations and thank you to everyone for their work for the REF submission, including the work for the RREs. A particular thank you to the PS and academic staff who put together the submission.</p> <p>In the Times Higher Education ranking, the University is ranked 8th for GPA (was 17th) and 5th in their Research Power Index.</p> <p>The highlights in the SoNS include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding environment across the Faculty. UOA 7 – Earth Systems and Environmental Sciences’ GPA has increased from 13th in 2014 to 6th in 2021 and our research power has increased from 10th equal to 8th. UoA 8 – Chemistry are in the top 7 for overall GPA and top 3 for research power; our environment is equal 1st in the UK with 100% 4*. UOA 9 – Physics is up from 7th to 2nd in the UK as well as 2nd with respect to impact. 100% of environment is 4* and equal 1st in the UK. UOA 10 – Mathematical Sciences has increased from 8th to 7th in research power ranking and from 9th to 8th in 4*/3* ranking. The environment is ranked joint 3rd in the UK. UOA 12 – Engineering is ranked 2nd in the UK in research power. 100% of the environment is ranked 4* and equal 1st in the UK. All the School’s UOAs are ranked in the top 10 in the UK for research power and 4 are ranked in the top 10 for GPA. <p>We expected a detailed narrative on each submission in June/July which will help us understand the strengths and areas for future focus for each UoA.</p> | N |
| Research Finance | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SoNS is running a joint workshop with Research Finance on 25th May to help identify easy, quick ways to improve the system. | N |
| PGR | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attached below is the SoNS PGR Research Strategy 2021-2022, which is in response to the Faculty PGR Growth Strategy. The Faculty growth strategy has meant significant extra resources going into PGR, with next year’s funding to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 Dean Scholarships across the Faculty. These will be open to all Depts but some Depts will be able to put in more candidates than others depending on strategic need and access to other funding. (P&A, EES and Maths will be able to submit more candidates than Chemistry and Materials in SoNS). 20 PGRTAs across the Faculty 4 Presidential Doctoral Scholarships across the Faculty. 3 Melbourne Dual Awards across the Faculty. 5 A* Awards across the Faculty 42 CSCs across the Faculty. 6 SoNS studentships with an aspiration to match fund these from other sources (eg Industry). | Y |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is planned for next year that students can apply for a number of these schemes with the same form. • We have been asked to try to increase the number of DTP which are match funded across the School. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attached below is also the Faculty Postgraduate Research Team which has increased in size. It is changing to centralized team structure with a known contact person with contact details. Wayne Keating presented this structure at the SEP Cohort 3 drop-in session on Wednesday 11th May. This new structure includes additional FTE, with the number of Grades 4 across Faculty going from 5.5 to 14 FTE and the number of Grades 5 going from 4 to 8 FTE. | |
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Appendix 1: SoNS PGR Strategy 2021-2022

Background

The Faculty PGR Growth Strategy aims to increase the number of PGR students by 30% (~660 PGR) over the next six years. This target will give an average of 4.25 PGR students per academic FTE and the ambition is backed £7.4m of new Faculty funding. The majority of these new students will fall within the SoNS (482 PGR) and will be met through Faculty investment, increased matched funding (e.g. industry, charities, NPL etc) and attracting more international scholarships and self-funded students.

The total funded studentships for Academic Year 2021/2022 within the School's control are:

- 11 PGR Teaching Associates, who will be doing their PhD part time (e.g. 0.8 FTE) whilst teaching.
- 34.3 DTP studentships from EPSRC
- DTP studentships from STFC
- 11 FTE + 14 x 0.5 FTE Faculty funded positions for the School.

Other schemes outside our control are CDTs, BBRSC studentships, Presidential and Dean Scholarships.

Proposed Distribution of Studentship

- 32 DTP studentships to be distributed to Departments predominantly pro-rotta to relevant income to be used as Department feels appropriate. (See Appendix 1)
- 6 x 0.5 FTE matched from studentships from School Pot (e.g. industry/NPL) on first come, first served. A total match of £40k direct funding will be required over the 3.5 years. Approved by HoS/SHoR on a monthly basis.
- 8 x 0.5 FTE (School Studentships) and 2.3 x 1 FTE DTP in a strategic cohort in Modelling, AI and Big Data with a focus on interactions with between different research groups, including experimentalists. If needed the matched studentships will be merged to fully fund a position.

The studentships will be put through the Manchester Mathematical Modelling in Science & Industry CDT-Lite with students registered in their home department. Note that this scheme supports students regardless of where they are based, with the modelling being conducted in any Department and not necessarily maths. (<https://personalpages.manchester.ac.uk/staff/marcus.webb/MMMSI/home>).

These studentships will be launched with two deadlines, with interviews conducted by a committee of Departmental representatives and SHoR. There will be a call for proposals against which then students will apply with an expect ratio of projects to students of 1:3.

First call for proposals will be out over Christmas with a deadline of 8th January.

- ~11 FTE PGR Teaching Associates whose role will be 0.6/0.8 FTE research and 0.4/0.2 FTE teaching. Their yearly pay will be £21606 based upon full PhD stipend (£15,606) and 0.2 FTE Grade 5 salary (£5,500).

In this trial year, these studentships will run as open call run similar to the Dean's award but with the application will require an additional statement on teaching. Each department in the faculty can put forward a maximum of 5 cases. Some Department studentships may end up supporting other Departments, particularly with regard to service teaching of maths.

The opportunity will also be opened up to current PhD students in their first/2nd year who may be interested in switching onto a programme like this.

- A proportion of the Faculty's ~8 Presidential Doctoral Scholarships and 40 Dean's Awards.

Departments may have scholarships funded from their own baseline, subject to budget approval, on which they are in full control of.

Challenges

The expansion of PGR numbers comes with specific challenges, which we will develop mitigations against over the next year:

1. Improving quality whilst still increasing numbers.
2. Improving EDIA. We will be using best practice from Departments and feedback from the University EDI working group.
3. Increased estate and facility usage for PGR, with the impact increasing a few times important as the number of students increase.

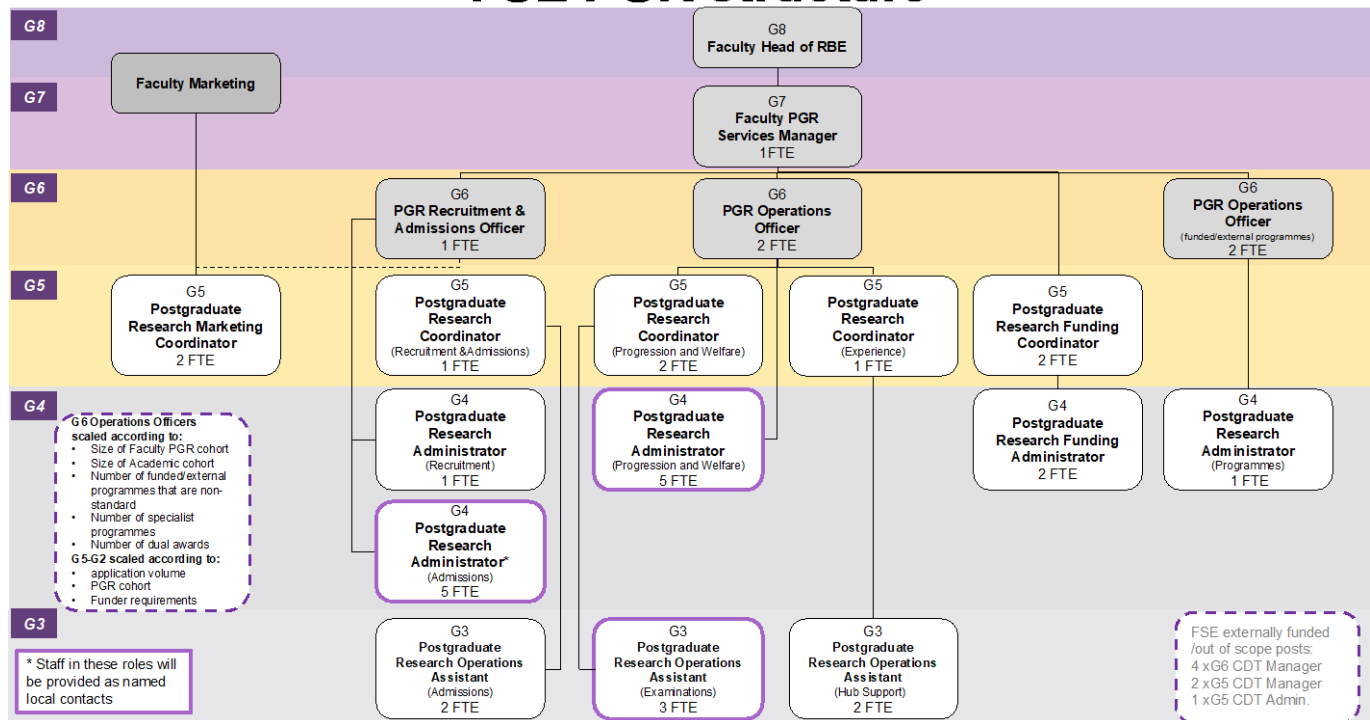
It should be also noted that Faculty are looking to put in extra PS resource in recruitment, marketing, and admissions to help with some of these issues.

Appendix 1 DTP Distribution for 2021/2022

| Final allocations: | 2021/2022 | 2021 for comparison |
|------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Natural Sciences | | |
| Materials | 12 | 11 |
| Physics | 6 | 7 |
| Chemistry | 10 | 10.7 |
| EES | 1 | 0.7 |
| Maths | 3 | 2.6 |
| SNS Strategic School Funding | 2.3 | |
| | 34.3 | |

Appendix 2: FSE PGR Structure

FSE PGR structure



School of Natural Sciences School Board
Report on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility.

May 2022

Prof Giles Johnson, School Head of EDIA

1. **Athena Swan:** The Athena Swan action plan is currently starting to be implemented. Working parties will shortly be established to look at promotions and professorial salaries and at parental leave. Anyone who is interested in these can contact giles.johnson@manchester.ac.uk for further information.
2. **BAME:** Following on from a recent School leadership team focused meeting, we are planning a series of engagement events, with drop-in coffee sessions with senior staff.
3. **Summer EDIA training:** we will be running a series of training sessions over the June-July period. Details will be publicised shortly, but the following are confirmed or in development:

Community and Inclusion Training (Constructing Equality). This is intended to support colleagues, especially those in leadership positions or involved in leading teams, in how to build an inclusive team. 3.5 hour sessions face-to-face to run 10th June, 6th July, 20th July and 28th July

Red Cross Mental Health and Wellbeing Training:

‘Leading a resilient team’ – 14th July 2022 (1 day course)

‘Supporting people through difficult situations’ – 15th July 2022 (1 day course)

These face-to-face sessions cover some overlapping topics. The first is more directed at people leading teams. The second is more for people working within teams. Courses useful, e.g. for people in student facing roles, to identify early signs of stress.

Understanding the experiences of Disabled students and providing appropriate support (Claire Meadows-Haworth, Disability and Inclusion consultant). 90-minute sessions intended to provide participants with insights into the challenges faced by disabled students. (Dates TBC)

Active Bystander Training: training will be open to all, but we would especially encourage colleagues from Physics and Astronomy to engage, as offering this is part of the department Juno commitment. Online, dates TBC.

SCHOOL OF NATURAL SCIENCES

REPORT TO THE SCHOOL BOARD

REPORT BY: Andrew Horn (Head of Education)

MONTH: May 2022

| School Priority | On agenda (Y/N) |
|--|--------------------|
| Priority 1 | |
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| Priority 2 (TLSE) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The joint STLSEC received a presentation about new EDIA training materials for students for use in AY2022-23. There is no obvious way to roll this out systematically across all disciplines because programme structures vary widely. Various suggestions to deploy this are under consideration, including events in Welcome Week, embedding in skills-based course units and through academic advisor arrangements. This will be done via the DHoEs as they have oversight of all programme structures in their disciplines. A Task-and-Finish Group led by Tim Jones and Lynne Bianchi has been convened to look at aspects of group work across the two FSE schools, including peer assessment and assessment of individual contributions to group work. A new project surveying all aspects of 'nuclear' teaching at UG and PGT (excluding NTEC) is being started across the two schools, involving both school HoEs and the new AD for CDD. | |
| Priority 3 | |
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| Priority 4 | |
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| Additional Items | |
| <p><u>Semester 2 Exams 2021-22</u></p> <p>Latest update from the Campus Management Group. Face coverings are recommended but not obligatory. There are no specific covid-based risk assessments.</p> <p>There will be no 'live' in-exam queries, as for Semester 1. Any errors or challenges noted by the students will be collated and forwarded to the department after the event. This is a decision made centrally.</p> <p>In order to comply with UoM policies, statutes and ordinances on examinations, we now have a set of Terms of Reference for exam boards. These have been circulated to Heads of Department and Discipline Heads of Education for use within each discipline.</p> <p>The timeline for marking, checking, moderation, scaling and exam board processes is tight and departments have created detailed schedules for return of marks. Colleagues are asked to adhere to these as there is very little room for manoeuvre and delays may compromise release of marks.</p> <p><u>Representation at STLSEC</u></p> <p>The STLSEC membership will be revised to reflect the changing PS landscape – the school's G6/G7 PS leads will now be invited to attend both tactical (joint) and strategic (single school) meetings.</p> | |