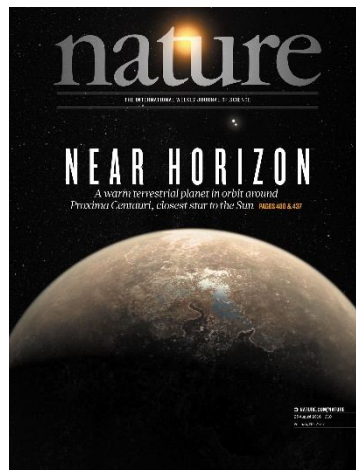


## Vice-Principal Science and Engineering's Report to Senate

The Faculty is starting the academic year celebrating buoyant recruitment to our UG programmes – it is anticipated we will be 145 students above target on 1<sup>st</sup> December (Data: SPO, 7<sup>th</sup> September). Recruitment to our PGT programmes has been steady but the same dataset suggests we will be 63 down on target on 1<sup>st</sup> December. However, overall, we have achieved our student recruitment targets as a Faculty and this gives us a strong footing for the coming year. We have been disappointed by our performance in NSS this year and are committed to working on improving the student experience in the coming months. Reviewing our PGT portfolio and improving the student experience will be key areas for our discussions in PAR and our strategic planning in the short term.

Since my last report, I am pleased to advise that Professor Wen Wang has been appointed as our Dean (International). Wen will lead on developing existing international collaborations and formulating a Faculty-wide strategy for building new international activity. He will hold this position concurrently with the post of Head of SEMS.

Our research goes from strength to strength, most notably recently in the work of Dr Guillem Anglada-Escudé and his team in identifying Proxima b, an Earth-sized planet orbiting Proxima Centauri at the right distance for liquid water to exist. This research was the cover story in Nature on 25<sup>th</sup> August and garnered a large amount of publicity.



We continue to work with colleagues in HR to develop the institutional submission for an Athena SWAN silver award. Two schools, SBCS and SMS are also currently finessing departmental submissions which are also due for revalidation in the autumn.