

Vice Principal Science and Engineering's report to Senate

The departure of Professor Jeremy Kilburn as Vice-Principal for S&E at the end of February led to an interim period where the Faculty was overseen by Professor Peter McOwan until Professor Burke took up his post on 14th September. During this period, work has continued apace.

The refurbishment projects have started in both the Engineering and Mathematics Buildings. The delivery of the new teaching laboratories in SEMS is on schedule to be completed by October and this new space will allow for student growth and demonstrate the commitment to provide excellent teaching space required to retain our professional accreditation.

Student recruitment across the Faculty is on target with schools working hard, achieving levels of recruitment that are as expected or better. Growth in our taught portfolio will be provided through new programmes including Actuarial Science in September 2016 and Robotics in September 2017. Student recruitment did not appear to be affected negatively by the decision to remove a tier of the Undergraduate International Science and Engineering Excellence Scholarship for 2015/6.

Submissions have just closed for Marie Curie fellowships and this year 39 proposals have been submitted by S&E. This is up on last year's tally of 28 proposals and although it is difficult to see how we can equal or better the 11 fellowships awarded within the Faculty last year, we anticipate doing well again in this scheme.

Between 1st June and 31st August we were awarded over £2.5M, including a £675k award from EPSRC for Dr Chris Jones, a Research Fellow in Organic Chemistry.

The Faculty continues to look beyond the UK to expand our operations. Discussions are progressing positively with North Western Polytechnical University in Xi'an to develop one of the new Joint Education Institutions in the area of materials science that the Chinese Government is seeking to develop with trusted international partners.