

Vice-Principal Science and Engineering's Report to Senate

In April Professor Burke made his first visit to China since joining Queen Mary. He visited our existing joint programmes with Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications and Nanchang. He was also part of the delegation led by the Principal, Professor Simon Gaskell, to visit Northwestern Polytechnical University, a leading research university in China, which specialises in aeronautical, astronautical and marine engineering. We now have official confirmation that the Chinese Ministry of Education will formally approve the Joint Education Initiative between our two institutions to start major collaborations on teaching and research.

In our last report, we advised that Professor Wang would be standing down as Dean for Research at the end of August. We are pleased to advise that Professor David Lee has been appointed to take on this role with effect from 1st September. This does mean we need to appoint a new Head of School for Engineering and Materials Science and the consultation exercise for this appointment is well underway. Earlier this month we announced that Professor Matthew Evans will be leaving QMUL to take on the role of Dean of Science at Hong Kong University at the start of August. Professor Richard Pickersgill has agreed to be the Acting Head of School whilst the consultation exercise and appointment process for a successor are undertaken. In the School of Physics and Astronomy, we have received applications from a number of excellent candidates to take on the headship and we hope to be able to announce the outcome of that selection process in the near future.

The Faculty secured funding for a number of strategically important business cases in the PAR process this year. One of these is to establish a fund to support large RCUK projects, for example platform and programme grants, and other strategic schemes, such as EPSRC's first grant scheme. A key strategic goal for the Faculty is to increase our research income. This fund will also support the Faculty's plan for sustainable PhD student growth.

In April Professor Burke also attended his first Garriott Lecture – our speaker this year was Dr Andrea Sella who gave a fascinating lecture about his favourite element – Mercury. The event was attended by staff and students from QMUL and students from local schools.

One of the main priorities for the coming months will be to work with colleagues in HR to develop the institutional submission for an Athena SWAN silver award. This will benefit from the best practice identified in S&E school in departmental submissions – both SBCS and SPA have silver awards.