

Senate Report

Professor Edmund Burke: Faculty of Science & Engineering

May 2018

Professor Mike Watkinson left QMUL on 31st March to take up the position of Head of Chemistry at the University of Keele. Mike was the Faculty's Deputy Dean for Research with responsibility for postgraduate research and also served as Director of the Doctoral College for the last year. Under Mike's leadership the Faculty has seen major improvements in our postgraduate research, with a 50% increase in PhD students in the Faculty aligned with year-on-year improvement in four year submission rates. He has also supported college-wide enhancement of the PhD student experience through his leadership of the Doctoral College. Mike has been a hugely valued colleague and has contributed strongly to SBCS as well as to the Faculty and the University as a whole - his commitment and vision will be missed. On behalf of everyone at the Faculty, I wish him every success in his new role at Keele.

Dr Eram Rizvi has accepted the role of Deputy Dean for Research and, in this capacity, will lead the Faculty's strategy to maintain our strong PhD population and completion rates whilst also focussing on improving our PhD student experience. We look forward to working with Eram and reporting on his contributions to postgraduate research within the faculty at future Senate meetings.

QMUL became a member of the Alan Turing Institute on April 1st. Recently, staff from all three Faculties attended a town hall discussion with Sir Alan Wilson, CEO at the Alan Turing Institute and senior colleagues to hear examples of data science and AI research already in development. This was the first in a series of events designed to bring together staff who work across the data sciences, as part of a new research institute: the Institute of Applied Data Sciences (IADS), which will lead on our engagement with the Turing Institute.

Preparations are underway in all Schools in the Faculty for the next Undergraduate Open Days on 22nd and 23rd June. With the challenging environment all universities face in the near future, it is vital that we use these opportunities to celebrate and publicise our provision. We recognise and are incredibly grateful to all our staff who engage with these events to make them the great success they are.