

Butler, Adrian P

From: colles-c-hydrogeol@adf.bham.ac.uk <hydrogeology@contacts.bham.ac.uk>
Sent: 15 February 2016 11:29
To: Butler, Adrian P
Subject: Update on the proposal to "Sharpen our research vision and reprioritise research investment"

Dear Committee of the Geological Society's Hydrogeological Group (c/o Dr Adrian Butler, Chair),

We would like to provide you with an update on the proposal to "Sharpen our research vision and reprioritise research investment" within the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences in the College of Life and Environmental Sciences at the University of Birmingham.

As you know, at the end of last year, we undertook a comprehensive consultation process during which we sought views on the proposal from a range of internal and external stakeholders (including students, staff, alumni and industry). We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the consultation process and provided valuable comments and feedback.

The consultation process has closed now and all the responses have been considered carefully by the Change Management Group to inform a set of recommendations. These recommendations have been endorsed by University Executive Board; and they will be presented to University Council for final consideration at the next available meeting (20th April 2016).

This means that, subject to University Council consideration, we will:

- continue to deliver the MSc Hydrogeology programme with improved delivery effectiveness; this is a revision to the original proposal in response to internal and external support for the MSc, and shows the University's commitment to address the apparent skill shortage for UK (and overseas) industry in the area of Hydrogeology
- retain the Year 2 undergraduate module (An Introduction to Hydrogeology) that opens a pathway to M-level modules in Hydrogeology
- organise the School's research activity into four complementary themes: Environmental Health Sciences; Geosystems; Physical Geography; and Human Geography (including the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies), and disinvest in Hydrogeology research, as proposed originally

We would like to once again highlight our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of teaching and supervision across the School's portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate taught and research programmes, and to ensuring that the student experience is not adversely affected by any changes.

Furthermore, we look forward to developing mutually beneficial links with relevant industry partners to ensure the MSc Hydrogeology programme continues to fit the needs of employers in the field.

If you have any further comments, please contact us via hydrogeology@contacts.bham.ac.uk.

Thank you again for your input to the consultation process.

Best regards,

Professor David Hannah

Head of the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences

Professor Myra Nimmo

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

Head of the College of Life and Environmental Sciences