

University of Glasgow
Academic Standards Committee - Friday 23 May 2014

Matters Arising

Helen Butcher, Clerk to the Committee

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 15 April 2014

3.1 Revised Market Assessment Process Update from RIO (ASC/2013/55.3) and (ASC/2013/58.2)

ASC is invited to note that EdPSC approved the revised Market Assessment Process which had been presented to ASC in April, see minute (ASC/2013/58.2).

The question of guidance on the role of Colleges in considering the viability of programme proposals and the use of the Market Assessment in the decision-making process raised by Professor Coton in April (see minute ASC/2013/55.3) had been considered further out of committee. ASC is invited to note that the wording of the guidance would be subject to further revision as there was a need to clarify the input of the College Management Groups in early stage approval of the strategic and financial viability of proposals.

Professor Coton wishes to report to ASC that consideration of the above issue has revealed an omission in the current articulation of the programme approval process. Specifically, while the current guidance correctly identifies the responsibility of College in ensuring the robustness, viability and strategic alignment of new programme proposals, it does not indicate where responsibility for these considerations lies within College. There is a danger that the current guidance may imply that responsibility lies entirely with the College Board of Studies, as the primary instrument of the approval process, so placing inappropriate expectations on the Board. Given this and the fact that a full review of the process was last undertaken in 2006, prior to the University's academic re-structuring, Professor Coton has asked Senate Office to initiate a full end-to-end review of the programme approval process during 2014-15 which includes benchmarking of practice elsewhere, and considers whether any aspects of the current process can be improved. This will be taken forward by the Senate Office which will produce an overview of current practice and benchmarking information which will be submitted to a small group convened by the Director of Senate Office including the Vice-Principal for Learning and Teaching, the Clerk of Senate, representatives from ASC (including the clerk and the Chair) and two College Deans of Learning & Teaching. The group will report its findings to ASC.

3.2 Reports from Semester 2 Programme Approval Groups – College of Science & Engineering (ASC/2013/58.1.3)

In follow-up to concerns raised regarding the two programme specifications submitted to cover multiple programmes, there was a meeting between the Convener of ASC, the Vice Principal (Learning & Teaching), the Dean of Learning & Teaching for the College of Science & Engineering and the clerk of ASC to agree a way forward. It was clarified that these two proposals for a BSc and MSci degree with various pathways leading to different specialisms could each be covered with a single programme specification, but that the documents

requirement amendment to demonstrate that a single degree title would be offered and the specialisms reflected through MyCampus endorsements. Further amendments to improve the clarity of the information presented were also discussed and would be fed back to the School concerned.

Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 14 February 2014

3.3 Mapping of University of Glasgow Policy and Procedures for Collaborative Provision (Student Mobility) with QAA Quality Code for Higher Education: Chapter B10: Managing Higher Education Provision with Others (ASC/2013/49)

ASC reported to EdPSC on 30 April 2014 identifying the need for commitment of significant additional resource from the University to support the administration of student mobility in order to ensure continued compliance with the Quality Code. As examples, the following aspects of procedure were highlighted as requiring development:

- Introduction of a systematic approach to the review of agreements with greater clarity in procedures for periodic review of the University's agreements with student mobility partners;
- Improving mechanisms for capturing data on the student experience at overseas partners.

Recruitment & International Office (RIO) have provided the following update for ASC to note.

Firstly, and perhaps most importantly the whole area of student mobility is being addressed as a priority project by the Business Process Improvement Team under the leadership of Graham Fisher. A series of workshops, lasting 4 days in total have been held in the last 3 weeks involving SLSD and the Colleges (as well as RIO), to identify 'quick wins', roles and responsibility changes and systems solutions. This will be formulated into a detailed plan over the next couple of weeks and reviewed with senior management. The second bullet point above is / will be part of this solution.

With regards to introducing a systematic approach with overseas partners, the Director of RIO, Ms Rachel Sandison, has now spoken to the Vice Principal Internationalisation, Professor Jim Conroy, re this specific issue and requested a meeting on the subject.