

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 5 October 2018

QAA Enhancement-led Institutional Review

Professor F Coton, Vice Principal (Academic & Educational Innovation)

1. Background and Timescales [for noting]

The University has been notified that it will undergo its next Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR 4) in 2018-19. ELIR exercises are carried out by the Quality Assurance Agency (Scotland), acting as agents for the Scottish Funding Council. The review encompasses all credit-bearing provision offered by the University, including research as well as taught degree programmes, distance learning and collaborative provision.

The outcomes of ELIR 4 will be a threshold judgement on whether the University's arrangements for assuring academic standards and quality are sufficient, and also a series of commendations and recommendations. The commendations and recommendations will be enhancement focussed – they will reflect upon what the University is doing on a systematic basis to improve the student learning experience.

Two reports will be published setting out the conclusions of the review panel: a short 'Outcome Report', which includes the overall judgement and any commendations and recommendations; and the longer 'Technical Report' – covering the main areas of inquiry. The University will be required to respond to these reports and present a plan of action to address any recommendations arising.

The main stages of ELIR are the submission of the Reflective Analysis (self-evaluation document) to the QAA, a one-day Planning Visit to the University, and the main five-day Review Visit. The University is then required to provide a response to the outcomes of the review. The main milestones for the exercise are scheduled as follows:

- Submission of Reflective Analysis: 26 November 2018
- Planning Visit: 23 January 2019
- Review visit (5 days): w.b. 18 March 2019
- 'Key themes' (outcome) letter: 29 March 2019
- Draft reports issued to University: 24 May 2019
- University comments on draft report: 14 June 2019
- Reports published: 12 July 2019
- Follow-up report by University: 15 June 2020

2. Update on Preparation and Approval of the University's 'Reflective Analysis'.

The ELIR Steering Committee (ELIR SC), which includes representation from across the University (inc. Deans L&T from each College, Convener of DoGS Committee and ASC) and is convened by the Vice Principal A&EI, has commenced preparation of the Reflective Analysis (RA) for submission to the QAA. This is a lengthy and detailed document accompanied by a range of supporting data and evidence. Preparations are progressing, with inputs to the content of the analysis being gathered from across the University in collaboration with the Colleges. The ELIR SC is overseeing the drafting of the document and the main responsibilities for drafting will soon need to pass to a core editing group drawn from the membership of the ELIR SC.

Whilst progress is being made, the timing of submission to the QAA and the schedule of meetings for University committees are not well aligned. In order to complete the drafting of the RA within QAA's timescales the ELIR SC will need to work on the RA until the point of submission. This therefore precludes gathering comment and final approval from all committees before submission to the QAA. Therefore, the ELIR SC has requested that Council of Senate formally devolve responsibility for final approval of the RA to EdPSC. Due to the timescales involved, this is likely to be secured through electronic circulation and agreement.

Committee meeting dates are included below for reference (submission to QAA required by 26 November):

Student Experience Committee:	15 November
Learning and Teaching Committee:	21 November
Academic Standards Committee:	23 November
Deans of Graduate Studies Committee:	6 December
Senate:	6 December
Court:	12 December
Education Policy and Strategy Committee:	13 December

3. Draft RA

A draft of the RA will be circulated to committee members (of all the above committees) for comment before being finalised, and (subject to Senate agreement) final approval will be given by EdPSC. The date of circulation is likely to be in early November – TBC.