

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

COURSE APPROVAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2009 at the Coleraine campus

PRESENT

Professor D McAlister (Chair), Dr D Barr, Dr A Cook, Professor C Curran, Professor A Erridge, Mrs H Farley, Mr M McKinney

APOLOGIES

Ms S Alexander, Professor E Lillie

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr A G Faulkner, Mrs A Garland

09.01 MEMBERSHIP

The Sub-Committee noted that Ms Sylvia Alexander would represent Access and Distributed Learning and that Mr Ian Hanna had replaced Dr Dass as the representative for the Faculty of Art, Design and the Built Environment.

09.02 MINUTES

The confirmed minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2008 were signed and dated by the Chair, subject to the following correction:

Min 08.123 Revalidation Subject Unit 22B2: Community Nursing and Public Health (Post Registration) and Revalidation Subject Unit 22F: Nursing (Colleges) (Min 08.79)

Under AGREED: “(2008/09 intakes)” should read “(2009/10 intakes)”.

MATTER ARISING

09.03 Revalidation Subject Unit 2F: Art and Design (Colleges) (Mins 08.66, 08.107)

It was noted that confirmation had been received from the Faculty that the interview formed part of the entry criteria for the AB Fine and Applied Arts at North West Regional College (Limavady campus).

Confirmation had also been given that graduates of this programme could apply for entry to the final year of the University's BA Hons Fine and Applied Arts degree. A formal interview was required in order to agree the actual year of entry and it was reported that weaker students might be asked to enter at, for example, Year 2 of the University's degree.

- AGREED:
- (i) that the Faculty be asked to confirm that there was a robust interview process with appropriate admissions criteria in place for entry to the AB Fine and Applied Arts programme at North West Regional College;
 - (ii) that the Faculty be asked to clarify the rationale for certain students, who successfully completed the AB Fine and Applied Arts, not being permitted to enter the final year of the University's degree, given that there were no subject bridging requirements.

09.04 COURSE APPROVAL

The Sub-Committee considered business from each faculty (papers CASC/09/1 – CASC/09/6) and noted revisions approved by the faculties and UU Health as detailed in the appendix.

FACULTY OF ART, DESIGN AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- 09.05 PgCert/PgDip/MSc Hydrogen Safety Engineering (PT)
PgDip/MSc Hydrogen Safety Engineering (with PgCert exit award) (FT/PT)
MSc Hydrogen Safety Engineering (with PgCert and PgDip exit awards) (FT/PT)

RECEIVED: the report of the Evaluation Panel.

- NOTED:
- (a) that, as the provision was scheduled for a January 2009 start, Chair's action had been taken to approve the report on behalf of the Sub-Committee;
 - (b) that the Chair of the Sub-Committee had requested that the Course Team revisit its response to the Panel regarding the application of condonement as, given the nature of the subject matter being taught and assessed, the condonement of modules might give rise to concerns about public safety and fitness to practise; the Team had addressed this issue and all of the modules were now non-condonable;
 - (c) that the provision was mainly distance learning with an element of face-to-face teaching in the 60-point *Progress in Hydrogen Safety* module;
 - (d) that a Postgraduate Certificate in Hydrogen Safety Engineering had been offered as a part-time distance learning programme since January 2007;
 - (e) that the original proposal had been to offer the Postgraduate Certificate as an entry point for full-time students, but it would now only be offered as an entry point for part-time students and as an exit award for full-time students as the Postgraduate Certificate modules were not completed until the end of the Postgraduate Diploma in this mode;

- (f) that the long-thin 60-credit point module, *Progress in Hydrogen Safety* was completed by students attending three block sessions, each equivalent to one-third of the module, from a number of block sessions organised annually by the University; the Panel had expressed concern regarding the lack of information on the block sessions included in the course document and had set as a condition of approval that more information be provided in the revised submission.

AGREED: that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that, subject to the conditions of the Panel being met, the following provision be approved for a period of two years (intakes 2009 and 2010) from January 2009, in line with the revalidation schedule for Subject Unit 4A3:

PgCert/PgDip/MSc Hydrogen Safety Engineering (PT)
PgDip/MSc Hydrogen Safety Engineering (with PgCert exit award) (FT/PT)
MSc Hydrogen Safety Engineering (with PgCert and PgDip exit awards) (FT/PT).

09.06 BEng Hons Building Services and Energy Engineering (FT/PT) (JN)

- NOTED:
- (a) that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Sub-Committee to approve a change in title to BEng Hons Energy and Building Services Engineering, with effect from 2009/10;
 - (b) that marketing and student feedback had indicated that Energy was perceived to be the dominant indicative nomenclature in the industry and that the support of the external examiner had been obtained;
 - (c) that there had been no change to the content or outcomes of the programme;
 - (d) that the change in title had been approved by the Academic Planning Sub-Committee at its meeting on 2 December 2008.

AGREED: that the Faculty be asked to confirm that written consent for the change in award title had been obtained from current students.

09.07 Course Withdrawal

NOTED: that the following course had been withdrawn:

HND Building Engineering at Northern Regional College (Ballymena campus).

FACULTY OF ARTS

09.08 Revalidation Subject Unit 14A: History (Undergraduate)

RECEIVED: the report of the Revalidation Panel.

- NOTED:
- (a) that the revalidation event had been compressed as a result of the tour of facilities significantly overrunning;
 - (b) that the Diploma in the Family and Community History of the Belfast Area: 1600 – 2000 had been evaluated as 'Diploma: Belfast: The Social and Cultural History of a Changing City' in 2005 but had not had its first intake until 2007/08;
 - (c) that current staff resources did not permit an annual intake to the Diploma programme and that applicants for 2008/09 had been put on a waiting list for 2009/10;
 - (d) that the Panel had recommended that a case be made to the Regulations Working Group for a contribution of second year to the classification of the award;
 - (e) that the discussion in the report about Level 3 work only being subject to external examiner scrutiny was incorrect, as the University expected Level 2 work to be moderated by external examiners;
 - (f) that students had reported problems with Library services;
 - (g) that four staff were leaving the School of History and International Affairs and that a case would be made to VCAG in January for additional posts; the Panel had set as a condition of approval that a strategy be devised for development of the subject which addressed the structural reorganisation within the Faculty/School, succession planning and investment in new staff.

- AGREED:
- (i) that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that, subject to the Panel's conditions being met, the following provision be approved for a further period of five years (intakes 2009 – 2013):

Diploma in the Family and Community History of the Belfast Area: 1600-2000 (with Certificate exit award) (BT) (PT)
BA Hons History (CE) including Level 3 modules at Southern Regional College, Newry campus (as Outcentre provision) (PT/FT)
Undergraduate Honours Subject: History (Major/Main/Minor) (CE) (PT/FT);

- (ii) that a reminder be issued to faculties that, in accordance with the Code of Practice for External Examining, Level 2

work in undergraduate degrees should be subject to external examiner moderation.

09.09 Revalidation Subject Unit 14B: History (Postgraduate)

- NOTED:
- (a) that the revalidation of the provision within Subject Unit 14B had been postponed from December 2008 until March 2009;
 - (b) that the Faculty had requested the postponement owing to the forthcoming departure of the Head of School and three members of staff;
 - (c) that the revalidation event had been rescheduled for 10 March 2009.

09.10 Revalidation Subject Unit 14D: American Studies (Min 08.119)

RECEIVED: a request from the Faculty for a one-year extension to the period of approval for American Studies to include the 2009 intake.

- NOTED:
- (a) that, at its meeting in September 2008, the Sub-Committee had approved a request for the postponement of the revalidation of this Subject Unit from December 2008 until May 2009;
 - (b) that the Faculty was currently carrying out a review of its undergraduate provision, including the location and nature of American Studies; there was a possibility that the subject would be extended to include Latin-American and Canadian Studies and that it might be moved to the Magee campus;
 - (c) that internal monitoring of American Studies indicated a high level of student satisfaction and that external examiner reports had been positive.

AGREED: that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that the Faculty's request for a one-year extension to the period of approval of the provision within Subject Unit 14D be approved to include the 2009 intake.

09.11 BA Hons Literature

- NOTED:
- (a) that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Sub-Committee to approve a change in title to BA Hons English Literature, with effect from 2008/09;
 - (b) that the change of title had been proposed in order to make the programme more easily identifiable to the potential market of part-time students who wished to continue their study of 'English', and that it had also been a recommendation of the Revalidation Panel in January 2008;

- (c) that there had been no change to the content or the outcomes of the programme;
- (d) that the change in title had been approved by the Academic Planning Sub-Committee at its meeting on 2 December 2008.

AGREED: that the Faculty be asked to confirm that written consent for the change in award title had been obtained from current students.

09.12 Course Withdrawals

NOTED: that the following courses had been withdrawn:

CertHE in Humanities at South West College (Enniskillen campus)
 BA Hons History and Politics (ME)
 PgDip/MA History (BT).

FACULTY OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

09.13 BSc Hons Financial Engineering (FT) (CE)

RECEIVED: the report of the Evaluation Panel.

- NOTED:
- (a) that the programme had been developed by the School of Computing and Information Engineering in collaboration with the Department of Business, Retail and Financial Services;
 - (b) that the initial offer standard was to be confirmed by APSC;
 - (c) that the Panel had made a number of suggestions in relation to the content of the programme;
 - (d) that BCS accreditation would not be sought for this programme;
 - (e) that the Panel had commended the Team on the introduction of a 'game playing' system to stimulate student interest and engagement at Level 1 whereby students worked in teams and points were awarded for a range of activities including attendance, engagement in class and general performance;
 - (f) that the Panel had recommended that at programme level further consideration be given to the assessment weightings between coursework and examinations in the Computing modules;
 - (g) that the Panel had been uncomfortable with the reliance on industry to provide access to databases and had recommended that the resourcing of the programme in

relation to the acquisition of financial databases be kept under review.

AGREED: that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that, subject to the Panel's conditions being met, the programme be approved for a period of four years (intakes 2009 – 2012) in line with the revalidation schedule for Subject Unit 16C.

09.14 Course Withdrawal

NOTED: that the following course had been withdrawn:

FdEng Telecommunications at Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey campus).

FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

09.15 PgDip/MSc Cataract and Refractive Surgery (Theory) (with Postgraduate Certificate exit award) (DL) (PT)

RECEIVED: the report of the Evaluation Panel.

NOTED:

- (a) that the start date was January 2009 and that the revised documentation and responses to the Panel's conditions and recommendations had been submitted to the Academic Office and approved by the Chair of the Panel;
- (b) that the Panel had set nine conditions of approval, one of which was that there be fully transparent disclosure that the course did not provide training in surgical techniques and that this be reflected in the title of the award and in relevant module titles;
- (c) that the title of the award had been changed from PgDip/MSc Cataract and Refractive Surgery to PgDip/MSc Cataract and Refractive Surgery (Theory), and that module titles had been amended to 'The Theory of ...';
- (d) that the Panel had recommended that consideration be given to offering a Postgraduate Certificate exit award and that appropriate recognition be sought from professional bodies worldwide;
- (e) that, in addition to University staff, a number of visiting lecturers and professors would bring significant clinical expertise to the programme.

AGREED: (i) that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that the programme be approved for a period of five years (intakes January 2009 – 2012);

- (ii) that the Team be asked to reconsider the revised title of the programme, which the Sub-Committee viewed as cumbersome.

[Note: the Team has subsequently confirmed that it wishes to retain the title of PgDip/MSc Cataract and Refractive Surgery (Theory).]

09.16 Revalidation Subject Unit 3D: Food, Nutrition and Dietetics

- RECEIVED:
- (i) the report of the Revalidation Panel;
 - (ii) further proposals from the Faculty in relation to areas of departure from University regulations.

- NOTED:
- (a) that the revalidation had taken the form of a joint University Revalidation and British Dietetic Association (BDA) Accreditation event;
 - (b) that the report had been approved by the Chair of the University Revalidation Panel but was subject to approval by BDA;
 - (c) that proposed changes in relation to the two Dietetics programmes had been submitted for consideration by the Health Professions Council and that a decision was awaited;
 - (d) that there was an additional study requirement in the two Dietetics programmes to meet requirements for professional registration; students were required to undertake modules to the value of 480 credit points for the undergraduate programme of which 250 were at Level 3; postgraduate students were required to take 255 credit points comprising 120 points at Level M and 135 at Level 3 for the Postgraduate Diploma, with a further 60 points at level M for the Master's award;
 - (e) that there was an admission requirement of an upper second class Honours degree for the PgDip/MSc Dietetics programme owing to the high level of demand and limited places;
 - (f) that a case for a number of departures from University regulations had been approved by the Teaching and Learning Committee at its meeting on 3 December 2008, but that the proposals for the weighting of modules for the final award and the undergraduate pass mark for Clinical Placement had not been approved;
 - (g) that a key change in the Dietetics programmes had been the move from the previous three module structure for clinical placements to a new model of two 60-credit point modules of 15-week blocks each; the Faculty was now proposing further

to restructure the Clinical Placement modules in the final year to two 50-point modules and one 20-point synoptic module and that this would require a further change to the Teaching and Learning Committee's recommendation to Senate on the Consequences of Failure (TLC min 08.245 iii);

- (h) that the pass mark for the 20-credit point synoptic module would now be set at 40% for the BSc Hons Dietetics students and 50% for the PgDip/MSc Dietetics students in line with University regulations;
- (i) that the Panel had recommended to the BDA that, subject to conditions, the BSc Hons Dietetics and PgDip/MSc Dietetics programmes be approved. Approval was subject to confirmation by the HPC.

AGREED:

- (i) that the proposals at (g) and (h) be endorsed and recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee;
- (ii) that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that, subject to the Panel's conditions being met, the following provision be approved for a further period of five years (intakes 2009 – 2013):

BSc Hons Dietetics (CE) (FT)
BSc Hons Food and Nutrition (with DIS/DAS) (CE) (FT)
BSc Hons Human Nutrition (with DIS/DAS) (CE) (FT)
PgDip/MSc Dietetics (CE) (FT/PT – MSc Project only)
PgDip/MSc Human Nutrition (CE) (FT/PT).

09.17 Revalidation Subject Unit 12B: Environmental Studies (Postgraduate)

RECEIVED: the report of the Revalidation Panel.

- NOTED:
- (a) that the provision was mostly part-time, distance learning with two intakes per annum in this mode;
 - (b) that the Panel had set as a condition of approval that a statement of overarching aims and objectives, and learning outcomes, for the Postgraduate Certificate exit awards available in all of the programmes be provided;
 - (c) that the provision incorporated extensive use of group work;
 - (d) that there were some differences between the online and on-campus versions of the PgDip/MSc Geographic Information Systems; the Team had confirmed that the content for both was identical, with the exception of field trips for the on-campus version, and the external subject experts on the Panel had confirmed that they were satisfied that, where assessment differed, it was equivalent and adequately assessed the learning outcomes;

- (e) that the Panel had regarded all of the programmes to be market leaders in terms of innovation and had asked the Faculty to ensure that resources were made available as required in order to maintain the programmes' leading position.

AGREED: that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that, subject to the Panel's conditions being met, the following provision be approved for a further period of five years (intakes 2009 – 2013):

PgDip/MSc Coastal Zone Management (with PgCert exit award) (DL) (PT)

PgDip/MSc Environmental Management (with PgCert exit award) (DL) (PT)

PgDip/MSc Environmental Toxicology and Pollution Monitoring (with PgCert exit award) (DL) (PT)

PgDip/MSc Geographic Information Systems (with PgCert exit award) (FT – on-campus / PT by DL).

09.18 PgDip/MSc Bioinformatics

RECEIVED: a request from the Faculty to extend the current period of approval for the PgDip/MSc Bioinformatics until January 2010 and for entry to the full-time and part-time programmes to be suspended for a further year.

- NOTED:
- (a) that, at the revalidation of Subject Unit 3B1 in 2006, the PgDip/MSc Bioinformatics programme had been given approval for a period of two years (intakes 2007 and 2008) initially, with the possibility of requesting a three-year extension to the period of approval with evidence of increased recruitment;
 - (b) that the problem of low recruitment had persisted and that the case had therefore not been made in these terms;
 - (c) that the programme was not financially viable in its current format and that recruitment had been suspended in 2007;
 - (d) that individual modules were being restructured for delivery as stand-alone CPD courses via distance learning and that they were being tailored to the new emergent market in Systems Biology;
 - (e) that, in order to test the market for a distance learning programme, an introductory 10-credit point Level 3 module in Systems Biology would be prepared for online delivery in April 2009;
 - (f) that a number of modules had been approved by CA3 in October 2008 and that these would be offered by distance

learning in 2009 – 2010 as stand-alone credit-bearing modules;

- (g) that it was envisaged that a new Postgraduate Certificate in Systems Biology would be brought forward for evaluation in 2009/10 for an intake in 2010/11, with a view to extending this to a full PgDip/MSc if there was demand.

AGREED: that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that the Faculty's request for the current period of approval to be extended until January 2010, with suspension of entry to the full-time and part-time programmes for a further year, be approved.

09.19 MSc Health Psychology

- NOTED:
- (a) that, as the start date for the MSc Health Psychology had been deferred to 2010, the evaluation event had been postponed until September/October 2009;
 - (b) that the Faculty had been asked to advise if a January 2010 or a September 2010 intake was proposed.

09.20 Master of Clinical Research (MClinRes)

RECEIVED: a request from the Faculty for a further one-year suspension of the MCLinRes programme.

- NOTED:
- (a) that the 2008 intake had been suspended in order to facilitate the revalidation of the programme within the School of Health Sciences' Allied Health Professions Postgraduate Career Framework in Spring 2009;
 - (b) that engagement with professional bodies had indicated that it was appropriate to develop the structure of the MCLinRes along with the structure that emerged for a possible professional doctorate;
 - (c) that the Faculty did not wish to withdraw the MCLinRes;
 - (d) that the MCLinRes was in Revalidation Unit 29A with the MRes programme which was due for revalidation in the current session, but might be withdrawn.

- AGREED:
- (i) that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that the Faculty's request for a further one-year extension to the suspension of the MCLinRes programme be approved;
 - (ii) that the Faculty be asked to clarify the position with regard to the MRes programme.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

09.21 Revalidation Subject Unit 26L: Certificate of Higher Education in Policing (FT) at the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Training College, Garnerville

RECEIVED: the report of the Revalidation Panel.

- NOTED:
- (a) that the report had been approved by Chair's action on behalf of the Sub-Committee as the programme had a January 2009 start;
 - (b) that the 120-point CertHE programme had been developed to replace the 60-point Certificate in Policing Studies;
 - (c) that all recruits to the PSNI undertook the intensive 21-week programme at the outset of their career;
 - (d) that the programme required an average of 57 effort hours per week and the academic content was underpinned throughout by practical training;
 - (e) that, given the diverse educational backgrounds of PSNI recruits, a diagnostic test was built into the programme at week 1 in order to identify students who might require support and that a Student Support Officer was available;
 - (f) that the programme did not permit condonement;
 - (g) that the Panel had set as a condition of approval that a more formal process for the internal moderation of student work be developed;
 - (h) that students failing the Physical Competency Assessment failed the programme and were required to resign or were dismissed from the PSNI.

AGREED: that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that, subject to the conditions of the Panel being met, the programme be approved for a period of five years (intakes January 2009 – 2012).

09.22 Revalidation Subject Unit 6B: Counselling (Colleges)

- NOTED:
- (a) that Chair's action had been taken to approve the Faculty's request for postponement of the revalidation of the provision within Subject Unit 6B from November 2008 until March 2009;
 - (b) that the Faculty was working with the new Skills for Health Sector Skills Council's group responsible for Counselling training in Northern Ireland.

09.23 Revalidation Subject Unit 26A: Community Development

- NOTED:
- (a) that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Sub-Committee to approve the Faculty's request for postponement of the revalidation of the provision within Subject Unit 26A from January 2009 until April 2009;
 - (b) that the Subject Unit Co-ordinator had been on extended sick leave since July 2008.

09.24 Course Withdrawals

- NOTED:
- that the following provision had been withdrawn:
- Undergraduate Honours Subject: Social Policy (Major, Main, Minor) (ME).

ULSTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

09.25 Revalidation Subject Unit 5G: Business and Management (MBA/MBS/MSc Sport Management)

- RECEIVED:
- the report of the Revalidation Panel.
- NOTED:
- (a) that the Panel had been of the view that the fees for the MBA programme, which were significantly lower than fees charged elsewhere, might inadvertently create the impression that there was correlation between the fees and the quality of the programme;
 - (b) that the Panel had recommended that the MBA be marketed as the Ulster Business School's flagship programme and that AMBA accreditation would be a worthwhile goal;
 - (c) that the Team had confirmed that AMBA accreditation for the MBA would not be sought at this stage, but that accreditation for the Ulster Business School by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) was being investigated and that accreditation of the MBA programme by the European Programme Accreditation System (EPAS) was under consideration;
 - (d) that the Panel had set as a condition of approval that greater clarity be provided in the revised submission in respect of the differentiation between the programmes;
 - (e) that the Panel had recommended that the MBA International Business Workshop residential planned for Dublin, be further developed to offer students the opportunity to travel to, and collaborate with their peers in, other countries;

- (f) that the Faculty had proposed to permit MBS graduates who subsequently completed three years' relevant work experience to take a 60-credit point *MBS/MBA Conversion* module for the MBA award; this 60-credit point module was not part of the MBA programme;
- (g) that the Panel had expressed a number of concerns regarding the *MBS/MBA Conversion* module and had been of the view that it had potential to dilute the value and undermine the credibility of the MBA;
- (h) that the programmes included a very high percentage of group work, but that there was a significant amount of individual contribution within the group work and that students' views on this method of assessment were generally positive;
- (i) that the Panel had set as a condition of approval that the revised submission contain evidence to demonstrate that sufficient staff were available and that the additional staff were competent to teach at Master's level.

AGREED:

- (i) that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that, subject to the conditions of the Panel being met, the following provision be approved for a further period of five years (intakes 2009 – 2013):

Master of Business Administration (MBA) (with PgDip in Management Studies exit award) (FT/PT at JN and PT only at ME)

Master of Business Studies (MBS) (with PgDip in Business Studies exit award) (FT) (JN)

MSc Sport Management (with PgDip in Sport Management exit award) (FT) (JN);

- (ii) that the Faculty be discouraged from the inclusion of an *MBS/MBA Conversion* module.

09.26 Certificate/Diploma in Services Management Practice

NOTED:

- (a) that the Faculty no longer wished to proceed with the evaluation of the Certificate/Diploma in Services Management Practice scheduled for 5 February 2009;
- (b) that the Department of International Business was currently undertaking a complete review and revision of the curriculum for its undergraduate provision and that it had decided that the Certificate/Diploma in Services Management Practice should be integrated with the overall portfolio of new undergraduate programmes.

09.27 Revalidation Subject Unit 15A1: Hospitality, Leisure and Consumer Studies (UG/CE/Outcentres) and Revalidation Subject Unit 15A2: Hospitality, Leisure and Consumer Studies (UG/BT/Outcentres) (Min 08.93, 08.94 and 08.110)

RECEIVED: the Faculty's response to the Sub-Committee's request for clarification regarding the rationale for bringing forward the Outcentre provision for revalidation.

NOTED:

- (a) that the Faculty now wished to withdraw the part-time BSc Hons International Hotel and Tourism Management (Levels 2 and 3) at Southern Regional College (Newry campus) (Revalidation Subject Unit 15A2);
- (b) that no students were registered on the course at Southern Regional College in semester 1 of 2008/09 and that there had only been 30 graduates over the past six years;
- (c) that the Foundation degrees in the partner colleges were due for revalidation in 2010/11;
- (d) that, following the relocation of the Department of Hotel and Tourism Management to the Coleraine and Belfast campuses, the Faculty also wished to withdraw all articulation arrangements currently in place at the partner colleges and offer this at the Belfast and/or Coleraine campus in the form of a full-time semester 3 provision of three Level 2 modules (60 credit points) over a period of 15 weeks;
- (e) that the new bridging arrangements would not be introduced until summer 2012, when the first full-time graduates of the revalidated FdScs would have completed; it would not apply to current FdSc students.

AGREED:

- (i) that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that the Faculty's proposals be approved;
- (ii) that the Faculty be asked to confirm that Southern Regional College was aware of the proposal to withdraw the part-time BSc Hons International Hotel and Tourism Management (Levels 2 and 3) at the Newry campus;
- (iii) that the Faculty be asked to consider introducing the new generic bridging arrangements earlier;
- (iv) that the Faculty be asked to provide clarification regarding the bridging opportunity for part-time students.

09.28 FdSc Hospitality and Tourism at South Eastern Regional College (SERC) Bangor campus)

RECEIVED: a request from the Faculty to bring forward the revalidation of FdSc Hospitality and Tourism at SERC (Bangor campus) from the 2009/10 academic year to 2008/09 to be considered with the new proposal to offer the programme at the Downpatrick campus in part-time mode.

NOTED: (a) that SERC wished to bring forward the revalidation owing to changes in the curriculum of the University's Honours degree (which was revalidated in 2007/08), curriculum updates deemed appropriate by Sector Skills Council, and developments at College level following the creation of SERC;

(b) that recruitment to the programme had been steady;

(c) that the Dean and Head of Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management were in support of the request.

AGREED: (i) that it be recommended to the Teaching and Learning Committee that the Faculty's request be approved for a revalidation in March 2009;

(ii) that the Faculty be asked to confirm whether the new model of bridging would be offered in 2011/12 (min 09.27 refers).

09.29 Course Withdrawals

NOTED: that the following courses had been withdrawn:

Advanced Diploma in Management Practice [Capita Life and Pensions (6077)] (JN)
Advanced Diploma in Management Practice [Explorers and Connections (1926)] (JN).

09.30 REPORT ON ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT BUSINESS

RECEIVED: a report of new proposals and other relevant business considered by the Academic Planning Sub-Committee (APSC) at its meeting on 1 October 2008 and endorsed by the Academic Development and Enhancement Committee (ADEC) at its meeting on 28 October 2008, and business considered by APSC at its meeting on 2 December 2008 and endorsed by ADEC on 6 January 2009 (CASC/09/7).

NOTED: (a) that seven additional validations would be added to the 2008/09 schedule;

(b) that maximum intakes had been agreed for the proposed BSc Hons Food Technology, the BSc Hons Food Design

and Nutrition, and the BSc Hons Food Management and Marketing programmes at CAFRE;

- (c) that a CA1 had now been received for the FdSc International Culinary Arts at Southern Regional College and that it would be brought to the meeting of APSC in March for information.

09.31 SUBMISSION OF FINAL DOCUMENTS

RECEIVED: a statement on the submission of final documents from 2003/04, 2006/07 and 2007/08 (CASC/09/8).

NOTED: (a) that the following were still outstanding:

2003/04: 1 document
2006/07: 2 documents;

- (b) that for 2007/08, 41 out of 53 documents had now been signed off and that three documents had not been received by the stipulated deadline.

AGREED: that faculties continue to work to clear outstanding documents.

09.32 DRAFT REVALIDATION SCHEDULE: 2009/10

RECEIVED: the draft revalidation schedule for 2009/10 (CASC/09/9).

- NOTED:
- (a) that the draft schedule had been approved by faculties;
 - (b) that CA6 forms had been sent to Deans and Heads of Faculty Administration to be completed and returned to the Academic Office by 20 February 2009;
 - (c) that it was important that Subject Unit Co-ordinators be identified as soon as possible to allow for revalidation preparation;
 - (d) that there was a heavy schedule for 2009/10 which included a number of postponements from 2008/09.

09.33 Faculty of Arts

RECEIVED: a proposal from the Faculty of Arts for the revalidation of Modern Languages in 2009/10 to be a single unit two-day event in January 2010.

- NOTED:
- (a) that the original Modern Languages Subject Unit, comprising 18 courses/subjects, had been revalidated as a single unit in May 2005 as a two-day event with more than 200 modules; that revalidation had been postponed twice as the documentation had not been ready; the final documentation had only been signed off at the end of January 2007;

- (b) that at the last revalidation the Panel had experienced some difficulty in reviewing the large quantity of documentation and that it was unreasonable to expect the external Panel members to cover this range of awards/subjects;
- (c) that, following a review of the size of revalidation units across the faculties in 2006, the Sub-Committee had endorsed the Faculty of Arts' proposal to split the Modern Languages Unit into four units;
- (d) that the Faculty had reconsidered its proposal and was now proposing one event spread over two days because, inter alia, two subjects/courses were to be withdrawn and pedagogical and curricular issues were common across campuses and subjects.

- AGREED:
- (i) that, while two days in total might be sufficient for the revalidation, the Faculty's proposal to merge the four units be not approved as this would result in too large a unit;
 - (ii) that the Faculty be asked to give further consideration to this matter.

09.34 Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

RECEIVED: a request from the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences for the revalidation of the provision within Subject Units 22C1 and 22C2: Nursing (Postgraduate) to be brought forward from the 2009/10 academic year to 2008/09.

NOTED: that the Faculty was making the request in order to balance the School's revalidation workload.

AGREED: that the Faculty's request for the revalidation of the provision within Subject Units 22C1 and 22C2 to be brought forward from 2009/10 to 2008/09 be approved.

DURATION: 1 hour 20 minutes

AGF/AG 19.01.09

COURSE APPROVAL SUB-COMMITTEE

15 January 2009

FACULTY OF ART, DESIGN AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

FdSc Construction Engineering

FdSc Architectural Technology at six regional colleges

To introduce two replacement 10pt modules at level 1; to revise one level 2 module;

BEng Hons Civil Engineering

BEng Energy and Building Services Engineering

To revise the title of one module;

BSc Hons Quantity Surveying

To change the title of one module; to make two modules, SUR109 and SUR111, year-long; to revise the content and delivery of SUR111;

BSc Hons Building Surveying

To revise content of module BLD114J1;

MA Art in Public

MDes Textile Material Product

To revise the structure of the course, so that the summer semester is not used for delivery. Students are to commence the Master's project in the next academic year;

FACULTY OF ARTS

Certificate of Personal and Professional Development

To introduce a 20pt level 1 module 'Ulster and Ireland. History, Cultures, Identities', a Faculty summer school within the CPPD framework;

BA Hons Humanities

To change the semester of four modules offered at Newry outcentre;

BA Hons Media Studies and Production

BA Hons Interactive Media Arts

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Media Studies

To revise the title of module MED303;

BA Hons French and German (Applied Languages)

BA Hons German and Spanish (Applied Languages)

Undergraduate Hons Subject: German (Major, Main, Minor)

To introduce an optional level 3 (6) module, 'The Allied Occupation of Germany 1945-1949';

BA Hons Irish History and Politics

To introduce a replacement module for HIS346;

FACULTY OF COMPUTING AND ENGINEERING

Certificate of Personal and Professional Development

To introduce a 10pt level 1 module 'Placement Preparation';

FdSc iMedia at Belfast Metropolitan College

To revise module COM029X1;

BSc Hons Sports Technology

To replace module SLS340J2 with two optional modules; to revise the assessment in SLS106 to 100% coursework;

BSc Hons Interactive Multimedia Design

To revise the assessment strategy in module COM602;

BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering

To add an additional optional module to the final year;

BSc Hons Computer Science

BSc Hons Multimedia Computer Games

BSc Hons Multimedia Computing and Design

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Computing

To revise the assessment strategy in module COM350;

FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

FdSc Food Nutrition & Health at CAFRE

FdSc Food Studies at CAFRE

To revise the assessment weighting in a module;

CertHE Health and Social Care (Learning Disability)

To re-title module NUR127 and to revise its structure and assessment strategy;

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Environmental Science

To revise the title of module EGM105;

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Environmental Science (Single Hons, Major/Main/Minor)

To remove two modules; to change two modules to 10pt modules (options); to change semester of two modules (optional); to introduce one optional module; to change names of six modules; to combine two modules into a 20pt module (Single Hons only);

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Geography (Single Hons, Major/Main/Minor)

To remove three modules; to change two modules to 10 credit points; to change semester of two modules; to introduce two new optional modules; to change names of six modules;

BSc Hons Nursing (Adult, Mental Health)**Graduate Diploma Nursing (Adult, Mental Health)**

To divide one 30pt module into two 15pt modules; to divide two 30pt modules into 20 and 15pt modules; to revise learning outcomes and assessment in all modules as a consequence of the decision to remove developmental assessment components; to revise regulations including to raise the minimum English Language standard for non-native speakers to IELTS 7 (with 7 in each section) in accordance with the NMC standard (6d (c)), and to introduce a requirement for evidence of an understanding of science through a range of specified qualifications from 2010 intake (6i);

BSc Hons Nursing Sciences (JN/ME)**BSc Hons Health & Social Care (JN)****PgD Health and Social Care (JN)****BSc Hons Specialist Nursing Practice (JN/CE)****PgC Specialist Nursing Practice (JN/CE)****PgD Specialist Nursing Practice (JN)****MSc Specialist Nursing Practice (JN/CE)**

To revise the title and content of a level 3, 20pt module;

BSc Hons Marine Science

To remove two modules; to change semester of three modules (and status of one); to change names of six modules; to combine two modules into a 20pt module; to offer four optional modules;

BSc Hons Biology

To remove prerequisites for module BMS521 CRN2175; to require students to pass all three coursework components in module BIO102C1;

BSc Hons Pharmacology

To replace module PHM505 with BMS505; to replace module PHM504 with a new module 'Special Topics in Pharmacology';

BSc Hons Physiotherapy

To revise the assessment strategy in module PTH126;

BSc Hons Developing Practice in Healthcare**PgD/MSc Developing Practice in Healthcare**

To add 3 learning outcomes to two modules;

PgDip/MSc Bioinformatics

To replace a 15pt Statistics module with two 15pt modules and to add a 10pt module at level 3 'Introduction to Systems Biology', all compulsory;

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Access Diploma in Social Sciences at SRC

To replace one module;

Access Diploma in Social Sciences at SWC

To change the assessment weighting and status of module SOC021;

Certificate of Personal and Professional Development

To introduce a 5pt module at level A 'Professionalism in Committee Support (Introductory)';

Certificate in Community Youth Studies

To introduce three additional optional modules;

PgCert/Dip/MSc in Restorative Practices

To introduce an optional module in 'Family Group Conferencing Practice and Processes';

PgDip Counselling and Therapeutic Communication

To change semester of module CMM722;

PgDip/MSc Professional Development in Social Work

To add an additional optional module 'Professional Supervision in Social Work';

PgDip Legal Practice

To change assessment weighting in seven modules to 80% Examination, 20% Coursework; to reorganise delivery; to re-title modules;

PgDip/MA TESOL

To not permit APEL for the Teaching Practice module EDU710C2, a core module;

PgDip/Master of Education

To introduce a 30pt module 'Language Society and the Individual'; to identify a named specialism in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from semester 2, 2008/09 [Note: approved by APSC on 02.12.08];

Master of Public Administration

To reinstate a Postgraduate Certificate exit award;

MSc Professional Development in Social Work

To remove the restrictions in the award of exit qualifications;

ULSTER BUSINESS SCHOOL

Certificate of Personal and Professional Development

To introduce within the CPPD framework six 10pt modules at level A; nine 10pt modules at level 1; three 5pt modules at level 1; one 20pt module at level 1;

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Accounting Studies: Minor (JN)

To replace a 20pt module with two 10pt modules;

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Business (Single Hons, Major) (CE)

To revise the assessment weighting for module BMG171 to 50% coursework 50% examination, and to reduce the examination to two hours' duration;

BSc Hons Business Studies (JN and Outcentres)

Level 1 – to make two modules optional and to add two optional modules; to replace ACF112 with ACF115;

Level 2 – to remove three optional modules and to add one;

Level 3 – to remove five optional modules and to add one; to make ACF544 optional;

BSc Hons Accounting (JN)

To introduce a new compulsory level 3 10pt module in 'Business Law';

BSc Hons Business Finance and Investment

To add two final year optional modules;

PgD/MSc Business and Information Innovation

To introduce a replacement optional module;

MSc Innovation Management in the Public Service

To convert the MSc from a joint award with HETAC to an Ulster award only and for Ulster to be solely responsible for delivery from the January 2009 intake, owing to insufficient recruitment at Letterkenny Institute of Technology;

MBA, MBS, MSc Management and Corporate Governance

To revise the assessment strategy for module BMG899 'Leadership and Change' to 100% Open Book examination;

UU HEALTH**BSc Hons Nursing Studies (SAAD)**

To restructure the course in Years 1 and 2 including the reduction in sizes, lowering of credit level and reorganisation of content of some modules, and to identify different sequencing to meet logistics of large cohorts.