

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (6.9.19)

COVER SHEET

Presenter: Professor B Murphy

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Course Planning	To approve recommendations and to endorse Chair's action.
2	Programme Withdrawals	To note.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

22 October 2019

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (6.9.19)

PRESENT

Mr A G Faulkner (Acting Chair), Dr S Crothers, Professor H Farley (for Professor M Durkin), Mrs J Peden

1 COURSE PLANNING

ACCESS, DIGITAL AND DISTRIBUTED LEARNING

Proposed International Foundation Year

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group and on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve a proposal to offer an International Foundation Year (IFY), integrated within 21 Honours degrees, from September 2019. It noted that:

- the Foundation Year was to be integrated into five programmes in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, one in the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment, five in the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences and ten in the Ulster University Business School; distinct course codes had not been allocated for the IFY and students would enter at Year 0 of the parent course;
- an exit award of either Diploma in International Foundation Studies (Science, Technology, Engineering) or Diploma in International Foundation Studies (Business, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) was to be available.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Proposed Postgraduate Certificate of Education – International Schools China

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group to recommend to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee approval of a proposal and Resourcing Plan to introduce a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) – International Schools China in part-time mode at Guangzhou Normal University (outcentre), with placements in partner schools in Guangzhou, from October 2019. It noted that the Chair's recommendation had been approved by the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee at its meeting on 17 June 2019 (min 19.38 refers).

Mrs Peden stated that more information was required regarding the Aggregate Offshore code number allocated for this provision as this had implications for licences for electronic resources. Mrs Peden emphasised the importance of ensuring that the correct code was

assigned to such provision in order to maintain a good relationship between the University and publishers and stated that the code should be assigned, and the financial implications taken into consideration in the Resourcing Plan, before such proposals were presented to APAG. Furthermore, there was a need, at institutional level, to understand the financial implications of this aspect of a proposal for the Library's budget. It was noted that this particular matter was not within the remit of the Advisory Group.

AGREED that:

- (i) Chair's action be endorsed;
- (ii) the process and timing of determining the appropriate Aggregate offshore code be discussed by Mrs Peden and Dr Crothers and others as appropriate.

Postgraduate Diploma in Headship

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the subject title of the programme to 'School Leadership' from September 2019. It noted that:

- at revalidation in May 2019, the School of Education had proposed a change in title to 'Senior Leadership' but the revalidation panel had asked for consideration of a contextualised title;
- there was potential for the current Postgraduate Diploma in Headship to be confused with the Professional Qualification for Headship (NI) (PQH (NI)), previously offered by the Education Authority which was currently working with partners to re-introduce a Headship qualification; the new title would distinguish the University's programme from the Education Authority's qualification;
- the new title indicated that the programme was for those in a leadership role, not just headship, and the inclusion of 'School' in the title clarified that it was a leadership programme specifically for those working in a school environment.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved. [Approved by ASQEC Chair's action.]

LLB Law with Irish (PT) (ME)

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken to approve recruitment to the part-time mode of the combined LLB Law (Major) with Irish (Minor) at the Magee campus. It was noted that the programme was already being offered in both full-time and part-time modes but that the part-time mode had not been set up in CMS and therefore did not appear in the prospectus.

FACULTY OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

MSc Data Science

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken to recommend to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee approval of a proposal to introduce a 240 credit-point pathway (Applied Research) in MSc Data Science from September 2019. It noted that the Chair's recommendation had been approved by the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee at its meeting on 17 June 2019 (min 19.38 refers).

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

FdEng Civil Engineering at Belfast Metropolitan College

The Advisory Group noted that the Faculty had approved the revision of Year 1 of the part-time mode of the course so that it might be completed in three semesters in 2018/19. It noted that the programme had originally been approved for traditional part-time mode as a two-year, three-semester mode had not been approved at revalidation in 2018, but that the College had subsequently engaged with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education) to develop a model whereby students on apprenticeships could study for a full calendar year and complete the Foundation degree more quickly; the Faculty had approved the delivery of two Level 4 modules over the full summer semester.

BSc Hons Civil Engineering (Geoinformatics)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the programme to BSc Hons Civil Engineering from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the Faculty reported that the term 'Geoinformatics' was confusing for those not familiar with it and that the external examiner's view was that any qualifier which detracted from the main topic resulted in lower recruitment;
- students and careers teachers tended to view the programme as a lesser offering than Civil Engineering;
- the title 'Civil Engineering (Geoinformatics)' had been chosen when the programme incorporated the theme of surveying, but this was no longer the case;
- the Faculty planned to implement the change in title from 2020/21 Year 1, and consult current students in 2019/20.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

Proposed BSc Hons Planning, Regeneration and Development (FT/PT) (JN)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to offer BSc Hons Planning, Regeneration and Development in full-time and part-time modes at the Jordanstown campus from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the BSc Hons was currently an exit award from MSci Hons Planning, Regeneration and Development;
- the MSci award was not well understood and it was proposed that the BSc Hons would be offered as a common entry point to both the BSc and the MSci, which would be retained;
- the BSc Hons would replicate Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the MSci programme but the optional placement year would be taken after Level 5 instead of Level 6;
- as this was essentially the re-organisation of extant provision, no Resourcing Plan was required.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Proposed Master's Degrees in Dental Disciplines at the College of Dentistry, Birmingham (Outcentre) and Fully Online

It was noted that the programmes brought forward for evaluation on 30 May 2019 were as follows (changes highlighted): MSc Advanced Clinical and Diagnostic Oral Sciences (FT) (BM); MSc **Advanced** Clinical Periodontics (FT) (BM); MSc Advanced Clinical Restorative and Aesthetic Dentistry (FT); MSc Advanced General Dental Practice (FT/PT) (BM/DL); MSc Clinical Endodontics (PT) (BM/DL); MSc Clinical Oral Implantology (PT) (BM/DL); MSc Clinical Oral Surgery (PT) (BM/DL); MSc Clinical Orthodontics (PT) (BM); MSc Clinical Periodontics (PT) (BM/DL); MSc Clinical Restorative Dentistry (PT) (BM/DL); MSc Clinical and Diagnostic Oral Sciences (FT/**PT**) (BM); MSc Digital Dentistry (PT) (BM/DL); MSc Endodontics (FT) (BM); MSc Facial Aesthetics (PT) (BM/DL); MSc Oral Implantology (FT) (BM); MSc Oral Surgery (FT) (BM); MSc Orthodontics (FT) (BM).

Proposed Advanced Certificate in General Practice Nursing (PT) (JN) and Postgraduate Certificate in General Practice Nursing (PT) (JN)

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group and the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve a proposal to offer an Advanced Certificate in General Practice Nursing and a Postgraduate Certificate in General Practice Nursing, both in part-time mode, at the Jordanstown campus from September 2019 to proceed to planning and evaluation. It noted that this was the first provision in the area of General Practice Nursing in Northern Ireland and had been commissioned by the Public Health Agency.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

PgCert/PgDip/MSc Nursing

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to introduce two new named pathways in 'Leading Practice' and 'Education', from 2019/20. It noted that:

Leading Practice Pathway

- the introduction of this pathway was in response to a request from the Department of Health and required the introduction of three new 30-credit point modules;
- the pathway was the first of its kind in the UK;
- the content had been agreed by stakeholders in discussion with service users;
- staff had been identified to coordinate the modules; the delivery of the modules also required external expertise for which a budget was available.

Education Pathway

- this pathway required the addition of an existing 30-credit point module;
- no additional resources would be required as the modules already existed.

It was also noted that:

- external examiner support had been obtained and current students had been consulted;
- no additional Library resources were required;

- no Resourcing Plan had been provided; the Faculty reported that the introduction of the two pathways had no significant resource implications.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved, subject to a statement from the Faculty Accountant confirming that there were no significant resource implications. [Note: confirmation from the Faculty Accountant has subsequently been received.] [Approved by ASQEC Chair's action.]

PgDip/MSc Food Regulatory Affairs (Veterinary Public Health)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the programme to PgDip/MSc Veterinary Public Health (Food Regulatory Affairs) from 2019/20. It noted that:

- the change in title had been recommended by the revalidation panel in February 2018;
- all students held veterinary degrees and the core modules of the programme were veterinary modules; students were required to complete their project in a veterinary area;
- as this was a joint programme with University College Dublin it had been consulted and approval for the change had been granted.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved. [Approved by ASQEC Chair's action.]

FdSc Sports Science, Coaching and Fitness at Northern Regional College, North West Regional College, South Eastern Regional College and Southern Regional College

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken to recommend to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee that proposals to revise the title of the programme to 'Sport, Coaching and Fitness' and to introduce the programme in full-time mode at the Lisburn campus of South Eastern Regional College from September 2019 be approved. It noted that:

- the change in title was a consequence of the identification of a new articulation route to the University's Sports Studies provision; an optional module had been introduced to facilitate progression;
- the Faculty Partnership Manager had confirmed that resources were in place to support the introduction of the full-time mode at Lisburn from September 2019 (two years earlier than proposed in the revalidation document in February 2019) and met a perceived change in the market.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposals be approved. [Approved by ASQEC Chair's action.]

ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Proposed Postgraduate Certificate in International Business (PT) at Irish Times Training (ITT), Dublin (Outcentre)

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group and on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve a proposal and Resourcing Plan to offer a Postgraduate Certificate in

International Business in part-time mode at ITT, Dublin (outcentre), from September 2019. It noted that:

- the Postgraduate Certificate was already an exit award from the MSc International Business;
- the programme had been developed primarily as a result of a tender to Springboard+ in partnership with ITT and students would be funded by Springboard+;
- the programme would be delivered by Faculty staff at ITT premises in Dublin and supported online;
- no additional resources were required;
- the stand-alone Postgraduate Certificate would be included in the revalidation of Unit 5E1i in October 2019.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

Proposed Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (FT) (JN)

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group and on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve a proposal and Resourcing Plan for a Postgraduate Diploma in Accounting (full-time) from September 2020 to proceed to planning and evaluation. It noted that:

- a CA5 had been submitted to withdraw the Graduate Diploma in Accounting which this higher level course would replace;
- the Postgraduate Diploma would permit graduates of non-accounting degrees to fast-track a career in accounting, providing exemptions from the professional qualifications of both Chartered Accountants Ireland and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants;
- the Faculty was of the view that the level of the material covered by the Graduate Diploma was above Level 6 and the programme could be brought to Level 7 with a small number of additions, making it more attractive and bringing it into line with other providers;
- no additional resources were required;
- the new Postgraduate Diploma would be included in the revalidation of Unit 1Ai scheduled for October 2019. [Note: the programme was approved at this event.]

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

BSc Hons Managing the Customer Contact

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and Resourcing Plan to offer modules at Levels 5 and 6 of the existing Degree at premises of ATOS IT Services UK Limited (a Higher Level Apprenticeship client), as an outcentre, from 2019/20. It noted that:

- the BSc Hons would replace the Advanced Diploma in Managing the Customer Contact currently delivered at ATOS;
- the existing BSc Hons was offered fully online; the intention was to deliver at ATOS by blended learning and therefore to add an off-campus outcentre location;
- the students, who were all in employment, would complete an APEL portfolio for exemption from the first nine modules of the degree: six at Level 4 and three at Level 5; a comprehensive mapping exercise had been undertaken with ATOS;
- delivery would involve external providers alongside University academic staff.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved. [Approved by ASQEC Chair's action.]

FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

2 PROGRAMME WITHDRAWALS

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

Last intake 2018/19

FdSc iMedia at Belfast Metropolitan College (Titanic Quarter).

Ulster University Business School

Last intake 2017/18

BSc Hons Accounting and Management (Levels 4 & 5) at Southern Regional College (Newry).

Last intake 2019/20

Graduate Diploma in Accounting (JN).