

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/20/29c)

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

3 December 2020

Agenda Item 5.3.1

COVER SHEET

EXTENSION OF APPROVAL

Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

Unit 4A4: Civil and Safety Engineering

Presenter: Professor M Keenan

To consider a proposal for a one-year extension to the period of approval for Civil and Safety Engineering.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

REQUEST TO EXTEND APPROVAL AND POSTPONE REVALIDATION

Form CA6b)

SECTION A: FACULTY REQUEST

FACULTY: Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

SCHOOL: Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment

REVALIDATION UNIT NUMBER AND NAME: 4A4, Civil and Safety Engineering

MONTH/YEAR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED: April 2021

PERIOD OF EXTENSION REQUESTED: One year
(eg one year to include the September 2018 intake)

COURSE(S): Whole unit
(Identify specific courses unless the whole unit)

REASON FOR REQUEST:

In June 2020, the Faculty requested a period of extension for one year for the revalidation units linked to Jordanstown-based provision within the Belfast School of Architecture and the Built Environment. This request did not include Unit 4A2 Civil and Safety Engineering as the professional body, the Joint Board of Moderators (JBM), had advised the School that their accreditation visit would be held in Semester 1 2021. Revalidation of programmes under consideration by the JBM must be in completed in advance of the PSRB visit.

The PSRB has subsequently and recently advised that the accreditation visit will now be postponed because of the impact of COVID-19 on the JBM accreditation schedule for 2020 and 2021. It has been confirmed by the JBM that the accreditation visit will now take place in 2022. A date has yet to be established for the revised arrangements; the School has been advised that work will commence in early 2021 to agree a schedule for 2022 events.

The Faculty would now wish to seek an extension of time for the revalidation of unit 4A2, moving it into Semester 2 of the 2021-22 academic year. This postponement will allow the programmes within 4A2 to be reviewed alongside sister programmes which share module content and where discussions will lend themselves to the consideration of further curriculum alignment between programmes post the recent School-wide review of Level 4.

CURRENCY AND VALIDITY:

(Please confirm that the curriculum remains current and valid and provide evidence of this (eg extract from most recent external examiner reports and those of relevant professional, statutory and regulatory body)

The curriculum remains highly relevant with the course team particularly within the Civil Engineering programmes reflecting and bringing forward programme enhancements annually through the CA3

process. The most recent changes came recently in November 2020, for changes to become effective in the 2021-22 academic year. Within these changes alignment to PSRB requirements are clearly articulated and adhered to.

STANDARDS AND QUALITY:

(Please confirm that quality is high and there are no concerns. Provide evidence of this through external examiner reports and annual monitoring datasets and reports)

Standards within the programmes remain particularly high as evidenced through strong CAQE data.

Reviewing NSS data which is available for the BSc Civil engineering programme we again (2020) record a NSS score of 100% overall satisfaction with strong progression rates for the programmes; this is further supported by external examiner comments.

PSRB (if applicable):

(Please confirm that any deferral will be accommodated by the PSRB and that accreditation will be ongoing for the full duration of the deferral)

The request for extension links to the forthcoming PSRB visit. Written confirmation has been received by the School from the JBM that accreditation has been extended to the September 2022 intake year.

The Civil engineering programmes will be required to have completed the revalidation process in advance of the PSRB visit and this has been considered in making this request.

DEMAND:

The civil engineering subject area retains a sustained level of demand and benefits from the alignment of a series of modules between the BSc and BEng programmes. There is also an articulation link to these programmes with two regional colleges.

Note: The Faculty suspended intake to the Safety Engineering programme for the 2020-21 academic year.

FACULTY PARTNERSHIP MANAGER'S ASSESSMENT (for partner institutions only):

FACULTY CONFIRMATION:

SIGNED: _____
Associate Dean (Education)

DATE: _____24.11.2020_____

The completed form should be returned to the Academic Office, Room J410, Tower Building, Coleraine.

SECTION B: ACADEMIC OFFICE COMMENTS:

The Faculty's request for an extension to approval relates to the rescheduling of a professional body visit now to take place in 2022. The revalidation event is the only one scheduled for the Faculty of CEBE in the 2020/21 cycle and is currently scheduled for April 2021 which late enough in the year that it would serve to prepare the documentation to facilitate the subsequent professional body visit in 2022 and therefore the Academic Office does not support this proposal.

The School had eight units, three of which were related collaborative provision, all scheduled for revalidation in a single year and the Academic Office proposed that such a revalidation load was onerous for the School and that there should be some further distribution of the events – the event for this unit (4A4) was the only one that the Faculty agreed to revalidate in a separate year (2020/21) so the School has already 7 events scheduled for next year.

Unit 4A4 Comprises (2020 CAQE outcome shown below in brackets):
BEng Hons Civil Engineering
MEng Hons Civil Engineering (Local Enhancement)
BSc Hons Civil Engineering (Active Monitoring)
BEng Hons Safety Engineering
MEng Hons Safety Engineering
MSc Civil and Infrastructure Engineering

External examiner reports are generally supportive but raise issues around attendance and failure in particular first year modules (although there is also an evident difficulty in terms of second year attrition).



SIGNED: _____ DATE: 26/11/20
Academic Policy and Standards Manager or Head of Academic Office

SECTION C: QUALITY ENHANCEMENT ASSESSMENT (reflecting annual monitoring data)

There are no issues with quality or standards based on our scrutiny of 2019/20 data and it is noted that there has been CA3 activity to deliver some streamlining. There may of course be a need to consider the total volume of revalidation activity in the School and the consequent pressure on staff especially as online delivery will continue into semester 2.

SIGNED: Sarah M. Kelly _____ 26 November 2020 DATE: _____
Head of Quality Enhancement

**SECTION D: ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE
(delegated authority from Senate)**

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING:

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

Late requests (in-year and no imminent Committee meeting) (actioned by Chair on behalf of ASQEC)

DECISION: Approve (Yes/No)

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____
Chair ASQEC

DATE REPORTED TO ASQEC:

Academic Office
July 2019