

## REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (20.5.20)

## 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	Resourcing Plans for Programmes Undergoing Revalidation	To note.
2	Course Planning	To approve recommendations.
3	Programme Withdrawals	To note.
4	Terms of Reference and Membership	To note.
5	Schedule of Meetings 2020/21	To note.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (20.5.20)

PRESENT

Professor B Murphy (Chair), Dr S Crothers, Professor M Durkin, Mr A G Faulkner, Ms R McCart, Mrs R McEvoy, Mrs J Peden, Mr P Quinn (for Mrs C McCarthy), Mrs A Scanlon, Mrs E Thompson

## 1 RESOURCING PLANS FOR PROGRAMMES UNDERGOING REVALIDATION

At the last meeting of the Advisory Group in March, the Chair had reported that there had been extensive discussion of the proposal for the requirement of Resourcing Plans for all programmes coming through revalidation and that Professor Bartholomew had confirmed that a full Resourcing Plan should be provided.

The Chair reported that the intention was to support the Advisory Group and Faculties in assessing the sustainability of provision and that, as indicated at the last meeting, he had discussed the implications of this requirement for the workload of Faculty Accountants with Ms Lucia O'Connor, Deputy Director of Finance.

It was noted that it would be necessary for this information to be received by the Advisory Group in time for faculties to take account of any suggestion from the Group and before detailed preparations for revalidation were made.

The Chair reported that the intention was to develop a dashboard comprising information on financial matters, student history, recruitment, and quality enhancement statistics.

## 2 COURSE PLANNING

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Proposed Advanced Diploma in Intelligence Management (PT) at Specialist Operations Branch (SOB) Training, PSNI

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to introduce an Advanced Diploma in Intelligence Management in part-time mode at Specialist Operations Branch (SOB) Training, PSNI from August 2020. It noted that:

- the proposal was the result of a tender competition for the accreditation of internal PSNI intelligence training and was a two-year programme for trainee Intelligence Officers; the contract had been awarded for three years; 200 students were anticipated over the period;
- a PSNI review had resulted in the Advanced Diploma in Intelligence Policing and the Advanced Diploma in Intelligence Management, which were validated by the University, being withdrawn; the proposed programme would replace both;
- students who successfully completed the programme would be eligible to enrol on the University's BSc Hons Criminology and Criminal Justice (Applied Practice)

programme or Level 6 of the proposed BSc Hons Policing and Criminology (Applied Practice) which had been recommended for approval to proceed to planning and evaluation by the Advisory Group in March.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation.

Undergraduate Honours Subject: Education (Minor)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and Resourcing Plan to offer Undergraduate Honours Subject: Education (Minor strand), currently available in full-time mode at the Coleraine campus, additionally at the Magee campus from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the new location had been supported by the Revalidation Panel in March;
- the provision had been restructured and streamlined for revalidation which allowed capacity to expand delivery to Magee;
- five new combinations were anticipated at Magee, with Majors in Business, Computing, Irish, Drama and Music; previously Education had combined with Business, Computing and Irish at Coleraine before campus rationalisation had resulted in the relocation of these subjects to the Magee campus; there was therefore historical data to support these combinations; Music and Drama would be new combinations;
- additional library resources would be required, the cost of which was within the library resource allocation for the School of Education; most of the resources were electronic;
- the intake in September 2020 would be managed through Clearing.

Mrs Peden reminded the Group that only electronic resources could be provided for all provision during the current lock-down period.

It was noted that a recommendation had not been received from the Campus Co-ordinating Group which was responsible for considering new combinations. [Secretary's Note: this was received on 21 May.]

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

Undergraduate Honours Subject: Politics (Single/Major/Minor)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the subject to 'Politics and International Studies' (Single Honours, Major and Minor strands) from 2021/22. It noted that:

- the new title emphasised the strong existing focus on international studies and would support the marketing of the degree by appealing to a wider market;
- revisions had been made to three modules to clarify and strengthen the existing international focus of the degree;
- the effective date for the revised modules was September 2020 but the effective date for the revised title was September 2021;
- Central Admissions would ensure school careers teachers were made aware of the new title;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

## FACULTY OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

### BA Hons Architecture

The Advisory Group considered a retrospective proposal to introduce the integrated International Foundation Year (IFY) in BA Hons Architecture for 2019/20 only. It noted that the degree had accepted one student to the IFY in 2019/20, although Architecture was not one of the degrees approved for introduction of IFY.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be retrospectively approved.

### PgCert/PgDip/MSc Construction Business and Leadership (with Management Specialisms)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the programme to 'Construction Management' from 2020/21. It noted that:

- a proposal to remove four optional modules and to create a single pathway comprising eight compulsory modules was aimed at enhancing the academic coherence of the programme and improving delivery efficiency;
- the revised title more clearly reflected the content of the revised programme and aligned with an internationally recognised construction discipline (construction management);
- external examiner support had been obtained and the professional body and students had been consulted;
- as several current part-time students had expressed a preference to graduate with the current title (Construction Business and Leadership), the revised title would only apply to new students commencing in September 2020;
- applications for this programme tended to be submitted late in the cycle; only a small number of applications had been received and these applicants would be contacted by Central Admissions regarding the new title and structure of the programme.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal for a revised title be approved for students commencing in September 2020.

## FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

### BSc Hons Health and Wellbeing

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to offer the programme in full-time mode at the Jordanstown campus from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the programme was currently offered in full-time and part-time mode at Magee and in part-time mode at Jordanstown;
- a full-time mode at Jordanstown would provide an articulation route for students from colleges, such as South Eastern Regional College, who did not wish to pursue full-time study at Magee; the Faculty would liaise with the FE colleges to market the new mode at Jordanstown;
- the full-time mode at Jordanstown would be delivered using existing resources within the School
- the proposal would provide another route for practising nurses in Northern Ireland to obtain a degree-level qualification.

Mrs McEvoy raised the issue of internal competition and queried whether a full-time mode at Jordanstown would result in growth or displacement. The Advisory Group expressed concern that the proposal could have a negative impact on recruitment to the full-time programme at Magee and/or the part-time mode at Jordanstown. The Faculty was of the view that there was room for growth and assured the Advisory Group that recruitment on both campuses and modes would be closely monitored.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

#### Postgraduate Certificate in Education for Healthcare Professionals

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to offer the programme in part-time mode by distance learning from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the programme was currently offered in part-time mode at the Jordanstown campus;
- at the last revalidation, the panel had recommended that an online version of the programme be developed for a wider market;
- Global Engagement had advised that an online programme about education in healthcare would be attractive to international partners; market intelligence also suggested that students from GB would be interested in the programme.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

#### MSc Advanced Nursing Practice

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and Resourcing Plan to add a new named pathway (Mental Health through the Lifespan) to the programme from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the proposal for the new pathway was the result of a successful bid for commissioned business to the Department of Health;
- the pathway would involve the creation of two new 30 credit-point modules with a clinical focus; curriculum planning had involved service-users and was almost complete;
- despite the pressure on the School of Nursing because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the School was to be commended for bringing forward a number of significant new developments.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved, subject to external approval of the new modules and the proposal being reviewed by the Academic Office.

### ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

#### Proposed BSc Hons International Hospitality Management (Level 6) (FT) at HTMi Hotel and Tourism Management Institute, Singapore

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken, through Professor Murphy's role as Chair of the Due Diligence Stage B1 panel, on behalf of the Advisory Group to recommend to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee that a proposal to offer BSc Hons International Hospitality Management (Level 6) in full-time mode at HTMi, Singapore, from August 2020 be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation. It also noted that:

- the report from the Due Diligence Stage B1 panel, which recommended approval to proceed to the next stage of institutional approval (B2) and course evaluation, would be received by the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee at its next meeting on 4 June;
- in order to facilitate evaluation in good time to allow recruitment by the college for the first cohort, Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee to approve the recommendation that the proposal proceed to planning and evaluation, subject to SLT approval of Stage A of the Due Diligence process;
- Global Engagement had advised that the necessary documentation to complete Stage A of the Due Diligence process would not be available until late May.

### Postgraduate Certificate in International Business

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to offer the programme in full-time mode by distance learning from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the stand-alone Postgraduate Certificate had been created for the Springboard contract delivered in part-time mode at Irish Times Training, Dublin;
- the new proposal would use four modules from the online MSc International Business, three of which were part of the part-time Postgraduate Certificate in International Business;
- the Faculty wished to offer the programme as an alternative for current applicants to the campus-based MSc, who could then be exempted for modules which were completed successfully; this could be particularly attractive to international students considering study at Magee or QAHE who might delay a visa application until they were able and ready to travel.

Mrs Peden highlighted the implications for the Library in terms of providing an online programme of induction and information literacy for new students.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the proposal be approved, subject to confirmation of external examiner support.

### BSc Hons Accounting and Management

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

- the use of 'and' in the title had led to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants incorrectly interpreting the degree as a joint Main/Main award which had resulted in the number of exemptions on completion of the programme being fewer than for a single-honours Accounting degree;
- the revised title reflected the Accounting focus of the degree;
- external examiner support had been obtained;
- as the current title appeared in the online prospectus, all applicants should be informed of the change in title; Central Admissions would circulate an email to advise of the new title and confirm that there was no change to course content;
- it should be ensured that the title was changed on all the marketing material.

**AGREED** that it be recommended to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee that the proposal be approved.

### 3 PROGRAMME WITHDRAWALS

FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

#### Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

##### No intake

FdEng Engineering at South West College (Dungannon and Omagh) – Automotive Engineering and Wind Turbine Technology specialisms.

##### Last intake 2018/19

FdEng Civil Engineering at North West Regional College (Strand Road).

### 4 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Advisory Group reviewed its Terms of Reference and Membership. It noted that:

- Professor Bartholomew had advised that he would no longer attend meetings of the Advisory Group;
- Mr Stephen McFarland, Head of Management Accounts, would replace Mrs Emer Thompson as Finance representative from 2020/21;
- the Executive Dean representative was rotated; Professor Durkin had now served two years.

The Chair welcomed Mr Stephen McFarland and thanked Mrs Thompson and Professor Durkin for their valuable contributions. He also thanked the Secretariat for its support in organising and managing the Group's business and to him in his role as Chair.

#### AGREED:

- (i) that the Chair approach an Executive Dean representative;
- (ii) that the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) post remain in the membership of the Advisory Group ex-officio.

### 5 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2020/21

The Advisory Group noted the schedule of meetings for 2020/21 as follows:

Thursday, 3 September 2020

Wednesday, 11 November 2020

Thursday, 21 January 2021

Thursday, 25 March 2021

Thursday, 13 March 2021.

AG/AGF