

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/20/11b

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

4 June 2020

Agenda Item 8.2

INSTITUTIONAL APPROVAL: Change to Model of Collaboration: Dongbei University of Finance and Economics

COVER SHEET

*Presenter: Professor B Murphy*

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below.

To receive a report from a Due Diligence Stage B1 Faculty Scrutiny event and to consider approval of the proposal's completion of Stage B1.

## PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

### QUALITY AND STANDARDS DUE DILIGENCE REVIEW OF CHANGES TO THE COLLABORATIVE MODEL

	Commentary	Further actions Required	Responsible / Timescale
<b>Sponsoring Faculty</b>	Ulster Business School		
<b>Collaborative partner</b>	DUFE – this HEI is a long-established partner with UU. The Due Diligence is to approve a different model of collaboration to enable in-country teaching by Recognised University Teachers managed through a 3 <sup>rd</sup> party company, namely CIEI (China Intellectual Education Institute).		
<b>Location</b>	China	Report to ASQEC and Senate for final sign-off.	QE June.
<b>Model of Collaboration</b>	2+2 (with transnational outcentre)		
<b>Agreement to work in country / ethical and reputational issues</b>	The Chinese Ministry of Education approves the proposed collaborative model for 100 students per programme (2 programmes) for years 1 & 2, and then 120 students per programme thereafter.		
<b>Duration of contract</b>	10 years with a review after 5 years		
<b>Legal and financial due diligence</b>	Business Case received and approved by SLT. No DDA required as DUFE an established partner. Alternative arrangements established in the event of CIEI folding.		
<b>Quality and standards Due Diligence</b>	Due Diligence B undertaken on 22 <sup>nd</sup> May with Senior Management team and Course Teams. Approval granted to proceed with model. DUFE proposal also presented to SLT in May who approved the business case.	DDB report to ASQEC (and Senate)	QE / June 2020
		Legal agreement to be reviewed to ensure it addresses the new 2+2 outcentre model.	QE / June 2020
<b>Faculty Rationale for Partnership model</b>	<p>The MoE in China will only approve partnerships with overseas universities that grant degrees in-country. Ulster cannot support flying faculty therefore a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company will recruit and manage RUTs on behalf of Ulster, to enable in-country teaching by Ulster staff.</p> <p>The continued partnership with DUFE meets the following KPIs: Global Vision - KPI GV4 Operational Excellence – KPI OE6</p> <p>The recruitment of the approved number of students has been guaranteed due to high demand.</p>		

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<b>Proposed Programmes Sep 2020 entry</b>	BSc (Hons) Finance and Investment Analysis	100 students per year (years 1 and 2) and then 120 students thereafter	120 credits	Some modules will require adaptations to e.g. case studies, to address cultural differences. Ongoing communication between module coordinators will establish and confirm suitable alternatives to module/assessment content without changing module learning outcomes.	(home) Programme team – Sep 2020
	BSc (Hons) Accounting ( <i>programmes taught in English</i> )	100 students per year (years 1 and 2) and then 120 students thereafter	120 credits		
<b>Income to Faculty</b>	Total from projections (2020-2026): Total income: 2,705,856 Total expenditure: 996,097 Contribution: 1,709,759 Central costs: 67,264 surplus/deficit: 502,947				
<b>CIEI and Staff Appointment</b>	<p>Academic staff recruited via the educational partner CIEI who have a contractual relationship with DUFE. CIEI undertake employment/CV checks and subsequent teaching observations. UU staff will be involved in recruitment at a final-stage interview. All RUTs will be qualified to at least M-level.</p> <p>CIEI is a legal entity based in China and established in 2008, partnering with universities to support international collaborative programmes. The UU partnership will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International faculty provision (RUTs)</li> <li>• Programme management support</li> <li>• PR maintenance with MoE</li> <li>• Guidance for students articulating to UU</li> </ul> <p>Faculty and Senior Executives met with CIEI representatives in China in 2019 and were satisfied with the quality of the organisations. DUFE also endorses the company.</p> <p>UU piloted the recruitment of RUTs via CIEI last year which established a working relationship and quality-tested the</p>			<p>Ongoing quality review of RUTs</p> <p><i>Should CIEI cease to operate, there would be scope to explore other companies in China fulfilling a similar role. Alternatively, UU would take responsibility for RUTs employed by CIEI or may deliver the programmes fully online.</i></p>	Programme team - ongoing

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	<p>arrangement. Where one RUT was not deemed suitable, they were removed and replaced effectively. The Faculty will have ultimate employment termination rights by withdrawing RUT status where necessary.</p> <p>RUTs will be experienced in HE and delivery in China. Observations of teaching will be undertaken by CIEI. RUT renewal dates will be monitored to ensure provision is seamless.</p>		
<b>Staff Induction and Development</b>	<p>RUTs will be offered the same induction support/resources as those received by Ulster staff. An induction package includes online induction that covers Quality Assurance expectations. Ulster (home) staff will draw from their previous experience with QAHE which established a collaborative process for sharing and confirming programme materials. Regular planning meetings will be held between module coordinators.</p>	<p>QAA online concepts of quality course to be shared with RUTs</p> <p>RUTs to complete CHERP's 'Introduction to teaching in HE' online.</p> <p>Further CPD opportunities (i.e. online) will be signposted to RUTs if and where appropriate.</p>	FPM Aug 2020
<b>Campus, Library and IT facilities</b>	<p>The (home) Course Director has visited DUFE campus on several occasions and is satisfied with the campus facilities, library and IT systems. Affiliate students will also gain access to UU VLE and online library facilities if required.</p>	<p>Certain online platforms (e.g. Bloomberg) will be inaccessible to Chinese students. Remote licenses for Bloomberg will be explored but suitable alternative databases will need to be established.</p>	Programme Team – by Sept 2020
<b>Student Status and Support</b>	<p>For years 1 and 2, students will be registered on the CPD (flexible) framework for Professional &amp; Academic Study Skills and for English Language modules, for credit accumulation only. Students would become Affiliate (UU Overseas) Students.</p> <p>UU Overseas Students will have access to VLE, online library services, on-line student support services and online counselling resources offered by the University in addition to facilities offered at DUFE campus.</p>	<p>English Language module under development with CELT in collaboration with CIEI</p> <p>Modules to be added to the CPD flexible framework.</p>	CIEI/CELT/Programme Team

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<b>Student Representation</b>	Student representation via joint Staff Student Consultative Committees, Course Committees and module evaluations. FPM to raise any student concerns within the annual CAQE report for actioning.	Faculty to monitor and ensure arrangements are appropriate and that information provided to students includes clarification of their rights.	Programme Team
<b>Student Complaints / Appeal</b>	UU Overseas Students will have the right of appeal and complaint to the University following completion of the internal procedures of the partner institution.		
<b>Academic governance</b>	<p>The CAQE process for collaborative partners will be applied to DUFE programmes. The FPM report will raise any concerns generated from SSCCs. Action plans will be completed if there are any issues of concern.</p> <p>3 dedicated Programme Managers have been established to manage the collaborative partnership (UU, CIEI, DUFE). Course Committees will include representation from DUFE.</p> <p>Sample assessment scripts will be moderated by UU (home) staff to ensure consistency in marking and feedback.</p>	CAQE ongoing.	FPM and Programme Teams
<b>Course Promotion</b>	Faculty to have close oversight of all promotional material including any web-based information.	On-going audit of publicity material (on-line and in-country).	Programme Director, FPM - Ongoing
<b>Student application and enrolment</b>	Overall IELTS equivalent of 6.0 (with no more than one band score at IELTS equivalent 5.5) will be required for articulation to UU programmes		
<b>Additional Faculty Resources to support partnership</b>	MCs and Programme Managers given sufficient workload capacity to manage delivery	Workload to be monitored	Programme team - ongoing

**PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

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<b>Other resources costs</b>	The Faculty anticipate that any additional resource costs incurred by University departments would be met through the contribution model.		

Approval to proceed with Collaborative Model:

Signed:  
 (Interim Dean of Academic Business Development & ASQEC Chair)