

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

3 December 2020

Agenda Item 4

COVER SHEET

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (17.11.20)

Presenter: Professor B Murphy

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	DfE Short-Term Skills Intervention	To note.
2	Pricing Governance	To note.
3	Change of Location from Jordanstown	To note.
4	Course Planning	To approve recommendations.
5	Resourcing Plans for Programmes Undergoing Revalidation	To note.
6	Qualifications Equivalence Advisory Group	To note.
7	Programme Suspensions	To note.
8	Programme Withdrawals	To note.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (17.11.20)

PRESENT

Professor B Murphy (Chair), Dr S Crothers, Mr A G Faulkner, Ms R McCart, Mrs C McCarthy, Mr S McFarland, Mrs J Peden, Mrs A Scanlon, Professor P Seawright

1 DfE SHORT-TERM SKILLS INTERVENTION

It was noted that all four successful Round 1 programmes had now been received in CMS and had been approved or were being received by the Advisory Group at this meeting.

It was also noted that the outcome of the Round 2 bids was now known, and a list of successful programmes would be circulated to members (see below). The Chair reported that subsequently an additional £127k DfE funding had been awarded for Employability / Flexible Education to deliver a 10-week graduate internship programme and a 15-credit point module and that the Ulster University Business School had received £27k to support 20 places on two postgraduate Hospitality modules.

Successful Bids for DfE Round 2 Funding

- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Counselling Modules;
- PgCert Advanced Composites and Polymers;
- PgCert Energy Management and Green Technology;
- PgCert Professional Software Development (Data Science);
- PgCert Artificial Intelligence;
- PgCert Biomedical Engineering;
- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Programming and Cloud Computing Modules;
- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Artificial Intelligence Modules;
- GradCert Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis;
- PgCert Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis;
- PgCert Pharmaceutical Analysis;
- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Personalised Medicine Modules;
- PgCert Understanding International Business;
- AdvCert Management Practice (Transformation Management in a Digital World);
- PgCert Professional Development Upskilling: Hospitality Modules;
- PgCert Professional Development (Enabling Business Recovery);
- PgCert Graduate Leadership;
- PgCert Professional Development Framework: Graduate Intern Programme.

2 PRICING GOVERNANCE

The Chair reported that the membership and Terms of Reference of the Pricing Governance Group had been revised to include reporting to the Advisory Group as well as SLT.

3 CHANGE OF LOCATION FROM JORDANSTOWN

It was noted that changes to locations of courses transferring from Jordanstown to Belfast or other campuses in 2021/22 would not require approval by the Advisory Group.

Ms McCart reported on the successful updating of the prospectus and noted that the process had exposed the fragility of its dependency on a number of different systems. An OLP Working Group had been established to review these relationships. Dr Crothers advised that new course codes and UCAS codes had been put in place.

4 COURSE PLANNING

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MFA Design

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the award and subject title of the programme to 'MA UX and Service Design' from 2021/22. It noted that:

- following consultation with existing and prospective students, as well as industry partners and internal staff members, the programme had been redesigned with a new emphasis on subject areas of interaction design (specifically UX), service design and design thinking;
- support of the external examiner had been obtained.

The Advisory Group queried the use of the abbreviation 'UX' in the title of the programme and how this would appear in the UCAS listing and on a student's parchment. The Faculty advised that 'UX' was commonly used in industry and that the abbreviated title would be attractive to applicants. Professor Seawright confirmed that the term 'UX' was widely understood, and should be used in the marketing of the programme, but that the full title of 'User Experience and Service Design' should be used at graduation and appear on award parchments.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

BSc Hons Community Development

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 change to the published entry requirements for BSc Hons Community Development which removed the requirement for applicants to "be working or volunteering for at least eight hours per week for an employer within the community/voluntary sector or public sector body (with community engagement focus)". It noted that:

- this was a temporary adjustment to the entry requirements for 2020/21 owing to COVID-19 circumstances which had made it difficult for a number of applicants to obtain proof of meeting this requirement;

- there were placement elements in Years 2, 3 and 4 of the programme;
- external examiner support had been obtained and the professional body had been consulted.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

MSc Art Therapy

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 revision to the title of the programme to 'Art Psychotherapy' for new and existing cohorts from 2020/21 and a higher English language requirement of IELTS 7 (with no band less than 6.5). It noted that:

- the new title did not apply to students who had completed the course in Summer semester 2020;
- the admission criterion of IELTS 7 was a requirement of the Health and Care Professions Council.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

FACULTY OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Postgraduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (PT) (Fully Online)

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 a Postgraduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence in part-time mode, fully online from July 2020 as part of Round 1 of the DfE short-term skills intervention. It noted that:

- the DfE had commissioned 100 places on the programme;
- on successful completion, students would be eligible to apply to progress to the existing MSc Artificial Intelligence;
- no additional resources were required;
- confirmation of external support had been received.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Software Development (Data Science) (PT) (Fully Online)

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 a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Software Development (Data Science) in part-time mode, fully online from July 2020 as part of Round 1 of the DfE short-term skills intervention. It noted that:

- funding was available for 100 students;
- on successful completion, students would be eligible to apply to progress to MSc Professional Software Development (Data Science);
- no additional resources were required;
- confirmation of external support had been received.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

MSc Computer Science (FT/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 introduce MSc Computer Science in full-time and part-time modes (with Applied Research pathway (240 credit points) in full-time mode only) at the Jordanstown campus from January 2021. It noted that:

- the programme would have two intakes per year (January and September) for the full-time mode and one intake per year (September) for the part-time mode;
- concern had been raised by Marketing regarding international admission and compliance in time for January 2021;
- information gathered by the University's Global Engagement Office supported the proposal;
- the programme comprised modules from MSc Internet of Things and MSc Artificial Intelligence, and one new module;
- no additional resources were required;
- confirmation of external support had been received and a resourcing plan had been provided.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

Proposed BEng Hons Computing (FT), BSc Hons Design Engineering (FT), and BSc Hons Mechanical Engineering (FT) at Shaanxi University of Science and Technology (SUST), China (University Outcentre)

The Advisory Group considered proposals to offer BEng Hons Computing and BSc Hons Design Engineering and BSc Hons Mechanical Engineering, all in full-time mode, at Shaanxi University of Science and Technology (SUST), China (University outcentre) from 2022/23.

The Advisory Group noted that:

- the Ulster College at SUST had been formally launched in September 2019;
- students at Ulster College were enrolled on an articulation programme and could either undertake two or three years there before transferring to Ulster for respectively a further two years or the final year, or undertake three years in China and complete the four-year degree programmes as Ulster students at SUST;
- students transferring to the Belfast campus would join existing programmes with advanced standing - BEng Hons Computer Science, BSc Hons Technology with Design, or BEng Hons Mechanical Engineering as applicable depending on the articulating course on which they had enrolled in China;
- a condition of approval for the arrangement imposed by the Ministry of Education in China was that students who studied for four years in China would receive an Ulster award; the proposals would enable Ulster to meet this condition through a University outcentre arrangement;
- distinct award and/or subject titles were proposed to avoid complications with professional body accreditation (students not studying in the UK would not be covered by the home programme's accreditation) and would permit minor differences between the proposed programmes and the home programmes;

- as the Agreement with SUST was operational from September 2019, students staying in China would not enter Year 4 until 2022/23; they would be in a sub-category of Affiliate Students, known as Ulster University Overseas Students;
- delivery of Level 6 at SUST would be by Recognised Teachers (SUST) and academics from Ulster, with each party delivering 40 credits of taught provision; the Project module would be supervised jointly;
- each proposal was accompanied by a supplementary external assessment of the proposed curriculum and resources as no evaluation events were proposed;
- students would be required to meet the University's English language standard before enrolling on the Ulster degrees in Belfast or in China; English language support was being provided by a third partner, AEMG;
- the same resourcing plan, based on 100 students enrolling, had been provided for each programme; it showed a cumulative deficit of £200k over an eight-year period; the fees were fixed and there was no scope to renegotiate the terms of the contract at present, although they could be reviewed after four years;
- the costing identified different scenarios and timeframes to achieve break-even.

Professor Seawright reported that the financial risk had been discussed at SLT where it had been recognised that there might be future benefits from the arrangement. It was noted that income to the University was dependent on how many students transferred from SUST to complete their studies at Ulster. Ms McCarthy confirmed that marketing support was in place and reported that the promotion of transfer opportunities and ways to facilitate relationships between home Ulster University students and students at SUST were discussed through a joint management committee.

The Director of Faculty Operations confirmed that additional resources had been factored into the Faculty's budget.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposals be approved.

FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Proposed BSc Hons Food and Drink Manufacture (PT) at the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) (Loughry campus)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer BSc Hons Food and Drink Manufacture in part-time mode at the Loughry campus of CAFRE from September 2021. It noted that:

- the proposal was the underpinning academic qualification for a Level 6 HLA in Food and Drink Manufacture;
- students would have completed CAFRE's FdSc Food and Drink Manufacture or FdSc Food Manufacture and Nutrition and would articulate to Level 6 for a further two years of study to achieve an Honours degree;
- summer bridging comprising a 20-credit point module was required for progression to the Level 6 programme;
- there was not a market for full-time study;
- no additional IT services were required, and adequate library stock existed.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation for a September 2021 start.

Proposed Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Science and Management / Equine Science and Horseracing Management (PT) (DL) (CAFRE)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer a Certificate of Higher Education in Equine Science and Management / Equine Science and Horseracing Management in part-time mode, fully online from September 2022. It noted that:

- an Honours degree and Foundation degree in Equine Management were currently delivered in full-time mode at CAFRE, along with Level 2 and Level 3 provision; there was currently no opportunity to study higher education Equine courses on a part-time basis;
- the programme comprised two pathways – a standard route and a specialist horseracing pathway;
- the team at CAFRE had worked with the University's Office for Digital Learning and the Faculty was confident in its ability to deliver the Level 4 programme online;
- the Chair would, in accordance with the contract with the University's partner for Global Online Education, notify Pearson Education of the University's oversight of CAFRE's new online proposal.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation for a September 2022 start.

Advanced Certificate in General Practice Nursing Postgraduate Certificate in General Practice Nursing

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to deliver the programmes in Semesters 2 and 3 in the 2020/21 academic year only (January 2021 intake) instead of Semesters 1 and 2. It noted that:

- the Public Health Agency had commissioned 40 students to start the programmes in January 2021;
- owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, it had not been possible for practice nurses to be released in time for a Semester 1 start;
- there were no resource implications;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved for the 2020/21 academic year only (January 2021 intake).

BSc Hons Specialist Nursing (with Pathways) Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Nursing (with Pathways)

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 the Learning Disability and Mental Health pathways in part-time mode (previously approved for full-time delivery only) from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the Learning Disability pathway had been commissioned part-time for 2020/21;
- a shortage of registered Learning Disability and Mental Health nurses made it difficult for full-time release by Trusts; part-time pathways were therefore a more sustainable option.

AGREED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

MSc Nursing

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to introduce a new pathway, 'Nursing Practice in the UK', within MSc Nursing from 2021/22. It noted that:

- the pathway, which included two new modules at Level 7, would only be available to overseas nurses undertaking the programme on a full-time basis;
- overseas Nursing graduates would be able to study for an MSc qualification and undergo preparation for nursing practice in the UK; students would be prepared for the Nursing and Midwifery Council Test of Competence Part 2 OSCE;
- students would be made aware of the English language requirement to have reached IELTS 7.0 in order to be able to register with the NMC and practise in the UK;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

The Faculty had confirmed in the proposal submitted that costings had been reviewed by the Faculty accountant and that there were no additional costs as students on this pathway would be taught alongside Level 6 students. The Chair however requested that a resourcing plan modelling proposed student numbers and fees be provided.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved, subject to a resourcing plan being provided.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

FdSc Hospitality and Tourism Management with Specialisms (PT HLA route) at South Eastern Regional College (Bangor)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal for a January 2021 intake instead of September 2020 intake to the FdSc Hospitality and Tourism Management programme's Culinary Arts pathway. It noted that:

- the January intake was for 2020/21 only and the HLA route would revert to a September intake from 2021/22;
- in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, DfE offered a range of financial incentives for employers to recruit a new HLA; this support package had only become available in late September and was too late for a Semester 1 start;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved for January 2021 only.

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Development (Enabling Business Recovery)

The Advisory Group received a proposal to offer a Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Development (Enabling Business Recovery) in part-time mode at the Jordanstown campus from September 2020. It noted that:

- this programme was funded in Round 1 of DfE's short-term skills intervention;
- two intakes were proposed; a first intake of 70 students and a second intake of 50 students;
- an external supporting statement had been received.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

Advanced Certificate in Management Practice

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to add two new modules, delivered by Belfast Metropolitan College, to the Advanced Certificate in Management Practice from January 2021. It noted that:

- the proposal was the result of a successful bid for DfE funding (Round 2) for a fully online course in the area of 'Transformation Management in a Digital World';
- funding had been received for 100 students;
- the generic Advanced Certificate in Management Practice would be awarded without naming the pathway, similar to other contracts which provided a bespoke course for various companies in the workplace;
- DfE had encouraged collaboration with colleges for Level 5 provision;
- the two additional modules would be alternatives for students with two compulsory modules delivered by the University;
- the Faculty envisaged that all modules would use the University's VLE, Blackboard Learn.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

5 RESOURCING PLANS FOR PROGRAMMES UNDERGOING REVALIDATION

At previous meetings of the Advisory Group, the Chair had reported that a dashboard comprising information on financial matters, student history, recruitment and quality enhancement statistics would be developed to support faculties in their consideration of which courses should be brought forward for revalidation.

Dr Crothers provided a demonstration of the template which would contribute to the dashboard. He reported that phase 1 of the development of the Student Numbers Plan (SNP) (previously called the Academic Plan) was now complete, with the inclusion of additional contextual information. He reported that the dashboard would be launched at a SNP meeting on 20 November. The template and dashboard would provide, in one place, relevant information to assist faculties in reviewing the performance of courses and help them improve management of their portfolios.

Dr Crothers advised that 23 fields had been added to the SNP to include data on, *inter alia*, UCAS applications, average tariffs, attrition rates, degree classification, student progression, banding. He advised that these were not new data, but that the datasets were distributed across different departments in the University and the dashboard integrated the information into a single resource. The dashboard enabled a comparison of the SNP with actual and previous student numbers and a traffic light system would be applied to highlight 'at risk' courses. Dr Crothers noted that additional fields could be added and sought suggestions from members.

The Advisory Group was informed that phases 2 and 3 would focus on the sustainability of courses and the use of the dashboard as a monetisation indicator.

The Advisory Group welcomed this new development. The Chair thanked Dr Crothers and his team and congratulated them on the development of this very valuable information source.

6 QUALIFICATIONS EQUIVALENCE ADVISORY GROUP (QEAG)

The Advisory Group received a summary of QEAG's activity since November 2019. This had been requested by the Advisory Group at its last meeting in September and had been approved by the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee at its meeting on 22 October 2020.

The Advisory Group also noted further recommendations from QEAG which had been approved by the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee at its meeting in October.

7 PROGRAMME SUSPENSIONS FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

No intake 2020/21

FdA Interaction Design (FT) at Southern Regional College (Newry).

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

No intake 2020/21

FdSc Computing at Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey);
FdSc Construction Engineering with Surveying (FT) at Southern Regional College (Portadown).

Ulster University Business School

No intake 2020/21

FdSc Business with Digital Technology (FT) at Northern Regional College (Ballymena and Newtownabbey);
FdSc Management (FT) at South Eastern Regional College (Lisburn).

8 PROGRAMME WITHDRAWALS FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

Last intake 2018/19

FdEng Architectural Engineering and Energy (FT/PT 2Y3S) at South West College (Dungannon).

Last intake 2017/18

FdEng Engineering (Automotive Engineering) (FT/PT/2Y3S) at South West College (Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh);
FdEng Engineering (Wind Turbine Technology) (FT/PT/2Y3S) at South West College (Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh).

Last intake 2012/13

BSc Hons Information and Communication Technologies (ME).

Ulster University Business School

Last intake 2020/21

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Management Studies (Minor) (ME).

AG/AGF 20.11.20