

COVER SHEET

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (21.1.21)

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	Portfolio Review	To note.
3	Course Planning	To approve recommendations and endorse Chair's action.
4	Qualifications Equivalence Advisory Group	To endorse recommendations.
5	Programme Withdrawals	To note.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (21.1.21)

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

The meeting considered documentation for successful proposals in Round 2 as follows:

- Postgraduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence (PT) (DL) (Semester 1 2020/21 intake);
- Graduate Certificate in Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis (PT) (DL);
- Postgraduate Certificate in Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis (PT) (DL);
- Postgraduate Certificate in Pharmaceutical Analysis (PT) (DL);
- Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Development (Understanding International Business (PT) (DL).

It was also noted that, subsequent to Round 2, DfE provided additional funding for other Upskilling modules within the framework and that these had been approved in CMS:

- two modules in Energy;
- three modules in Engineering;
- one module in Data Science.

2 PORTFOLIO REVIEW

It was noted that the Associate Deans (Education) had commented that they did not have access to the Student Numbers dashboard and had not used it for the return of revalidation preparation forms for 2021/22. Dr Crothers advised that he would provide access to the associated templates and would schedule a meeting with the Associate Deans as soon as possible to introduce them to it.

It was also noted that the Faculties were actively reviewing their portfolios with a view to responding to current short-term planning imperatives. Ms McCart noted the implications for the imminent deadline for printing the hard-copy prospectus.

3 COURSE PLANNING

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Proposed MSc Criminology and Criminal Justice (FT/PT) (BT)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer the course in full and part-time modes at the Belfast campus from September 2021. It noted that:

- the programme, which shared common modules, would build on the undergraduate degree and meet demand from graduates and current students;
- no new resources were required.

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

LLM/MSc Corporate Law and Computing

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the subject title to 'Corporate Law, Computing and Innovation'. It noted that:

- the title was considered to be more closely related to the content and would be more appealing by bringing out the 'Innovation' aspect;
- the Marketing Department and School of Computing, Engineering and Intelligent Systems had been consulted.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

FACULTY OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Postgraduate Certificate in Artificial Intelligence

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to add a Semester 1 2020/21 intake. It noted that:

- this part-time fully online course had been approved under DfE Short-Term Skills Intervention Round 1 for a Summer 2020 start; it was then successful under Round 2;
- the Round 2 course started in October 2020 and students would complete the final module in Semester 2.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Proposed Graduate Certificate in Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis; Postgraduate Certificate in Molecular and Pharmaceutical Analysis; Postgraduate Certificate in Pharmaceutical Analysis (PT) (DL)

The Advisory Group noted that the proposal to offer three programmes from September 2020 had been approved by Chair's action on behalf of the Advisory Group and on behalf of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee. It noted that:

- the programmes were funded under Round 2 of DfE's Short-Term Skills Intervention;
- the content was derived from existing provision, and an external supplementary assessment had been provided to support approval without an evaluation event;
- no resourcing plan had been provided on account of the DfE contract.

RECOMMENDED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

Proposed MSc Advanced Pharmacy Practice (PT) (DL)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer the MSc in part-time mode by distance learning from September 2021. It noted that:

- the proposal had previously been considered in September 2020, when it was agreed that it should be presented as a new 60 credit point specialism within an existing MSc;
- the Faculty had chosen to re-present a full standard MSc as the specialism option was not feasible, and proposed initially to exempt suitable applicants from modules amounting to 120 credit points;
- the training associated with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society's (RPS) Advanced Pharmacy Framework (APF) was currently delivered by the Northern Ireland Centre for Pharmacy Learning and Development (NICPLD) in conjunction with Queen's University Belfast (QUB) in an MSc Advanced Pharmacy Practice (with Independent Prescribing) programme. This was restricted to hospital pharmacists and NICPLD had approached the Faculty to offer a route for community pharmacists;
- no additional resources were required; confirmation had been received from the Library that the programme could be supported within the existing School library book budget;
- the programme would be supported by Department of Health funding (50% of fee paid by NICPLD), 25% by the employer and 25% by the student;
- the Faculty had requested that the proposal be approved without an evaluation event because it derived from existing elements of the MSc Pharmacy Management.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning, subject to:

- (i) provision of a satisfactory external supplementary assessment of the entire programme;
- (ii) a revised set of programme regulations being submitted.

Postgraduate Diploma in Physician Associate Studies

The Advisory Group noted correspondence regarding a change of campus for the course from Coleraine from January 2022. The course was being revalidated shortly and the Faculty had proposed to relocate it to Magee where the School of Medicine was based. It was noted that the course had moved to the School of Medicine.

PgCert/Dip/MSc Nursing

The Advisory Group received the resourcing plan for the new pathway, 'Nursing Practice in the UK'. The proposal had been recommended for approval subject to receipt of this plan at the last meeting.

PgCert/Dip/MSc Advancing Practice

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to add a new named pathway in Dietetics to the current 12 specialisms from January 2021. It noted that:

- this would be achieved through one new 15 credit-point module; students would also take other taught modules, and a dissertation related to their specialist field;
- the module would be taken at Coleraine with all other modules at Jordanstown; it might also be taken as a stand-alone short course.

Mr Faulkner questioned if it was appropriate to have a named pathway with only one specific module in the subject when the other specialisms appeared to include other specialism-specific modules.

AGREED that the Faculty clarify the arrangement for the naming of specialisms in this course and that Chair's action be permitted in light of the response provided.

[Secretary's Note: Clarification has subsequently been received from the Faculty and the Chair has agreed to approve the proposal on behalf of the Advisory Group and the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee.]

RECOMMENDED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Proposed MSc International Accounting, Taxation and Analytics (FT/PT) (ME)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer a joint course with Letterkenny Institute of Technology (LYIT) in full and part-time modes between Magee and LYIT from September 2021. It noted that:

- the initiative was supported by the North West Strategic Growth Partnership and would not compete with existing University provision;
- the proposal built on the Faculty's existing collaboration in the joint MSc Leadership and Innovation in the Public Sector; the model currently used for this MSc would be followed;
- sufficient resources were in place to support the programme;
- each institution would market the programme separately and prospective students would choose the institution to apply to;
- it was proposed that both the University and LYIT would charge the same fee and retain the full fee income for the students they recruited;
- as the joint award was made by both bodies, each institution would ensure that its respective expectations for standards and quality assurance were fulfilled; LYIT had offered to manage the evaluation event; there would be a common external examiner appointed by each;
- each institution would deliver four 15 credit-point taught modules and students would attend the campus (Magee/Letterkenny) on which a module was taught (if the present circumstances prevailed modules would be delivered online);
- the Faculty was able to run the course as an Ulster-only course if collaboration was not feasible.

The Advisory Group queried how teaching arrangements and costs would be addressed should one partner recruit substantially fewer students than the other. It was suggested that a contractual Memorandum of Understanding and/or operating agreement would be necessary to ensure equity in meeting costs incurred by each partner as well as to provide clarity on responsibilities. Further issues that might need to be addressed included:

- the student experience and access to VLE of both institutions;
- access to Library resources and any TNE implications;
- the implications of cross-border travel for international students;
- ownership of intellectual property.

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

- (i) completion of a light-touch Due Diligence process;
- (ii) if the evaluation event is led by LYIT, University approval of the external membership of a joint panel and representation on the panel, the submission of the proposal in CMS for provisional approval and subsequent review of full documentation;
- (iii) the drafting of a Memorandum of Understanding addressing joint operational matters.

Proposed BSc International Business (FT/PT) (ME)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer the above programme in full and part-time modes at the Magee campus from September 2021.

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

Proposed Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Development (Understanding International Business) (PT) (DL)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal, and statement from Faculty Accountant on the resourcing plan, to offer the above programme in part-time mode, from Semester 2, 2020/21. It noted that:

- this was a successful bid under Round 2 of DfE's Short-Term Skills Intervention, with a projected intake of 50;
- all modules were current, and no evaluation was proposed (a supportive external supplementary assessment had been provided);
- no resourcing plan had been provided as Faculty Accountant had indicated that this was not needed on account of the successful DfE contract.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved for a January 2021 start.

Proposed FdSc Logistics and Supply Chain (PT) at Northern Regional College, (Newtownabbey, Ballymena campuses)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and resourcing plan to offer a FdSc in part-time mode at Newtownabbey and Ballymena campuses of Northern Regional College from September 2021. It noted that:

- there were currently no Supply Chain/Transport/Logistics courses in Northern Ireland;
- the programme would follow the Higher Level Apprenticeship format with the part-time programme completed in two and a half years and would allow progression to Level 6 BSc Hons Business Studies at the University.

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

Advanced Certificate, Advanced Diploma, BSc Hons Managing the Customer Contact

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the subject title to 'Leading on Customer Operations' from September 2021. It noted that:

- the new title was more appropriate to the content of the revised programme and was supported by the external examiner, clients, and current students;
- the provision had been revalidated in December when the new title was supported by the panel.

RECOMMENDED: that the revised title be approved.

Postgraduate Certificate in Global Capital Markets (Financial Risk Management)

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 restructure the course into two pathways by the inclusion of a new pathway, Regulation and Compliance, from January 2021 at Irish Times Training, Dublin (University outcentre) and fully online from September 2021 and for the removal of the Jordanstown campus location.

RECOMMENDED: that Chair's action be endorsed.

BSc Hons International Hospitality Management at HTMi Singapore

The Advisory Group noted that the Faculty had approved a revision to the course structure so that the academic year adopted a two-semester model with each semester lasting 16 weeks, rather than the intensive 20-week, long-thin delivery originally adopted (as at HTMi Switzerland).

It was noted that the relevant Singapore education authority (the Singaporean Committee for Private Education (CPE)), was concerned that the course structure of this recently evaluated course did not match the longer semester-based pattern at the University and recommended that the duration of the HTMi programme be changed. The Faculty also welcomed the closer alignment.

4 QUALIFICATIONS EQUIVALENCE ADVISORY GROUP (QEAG)

The Advisory Group received a summary report of the Qualifications Equivalence Advisory Group's activity since November 2020. It noted that:

- four qualifications were not considered appropriate for University admission;
- there was no change to EU academic requirements;

- five qualifications were proposed to be added to the schedule of approved alternative general entry qualifications for undergraduate programmes;
- a searchable database was to be developed to record the growing body of such qualifications.

RECOMMENDED: that QEAG'S recommendations for approval be endorsed, as set out below.

- i. BTEC Extended Certificate in Engineering when students take an optional unit (Calculus to Solve Engineering Problems) to make up the Mathematics deficit in the Extended Certificate;
- ii. ATHE Level 3 programmes, provided that the full course is taken (credits gained through prior learning not acceptable):
 - Level 3 Diploma in Accounting
 - Level 3 Diploma in Applied Statistics
 - Level 3 Diploma in Business
 - Level 3 Diploma in Business English and Communication
 - Level 3 Diploma in Health and Social Care
 - Level 3 Diploma in Information and Digital Technologies
 - Level 3 Diploma in Law
 - Level 3 Diploma in Small Business and Social Enterprise Start-up;
- iii. BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Children's Play, Learning and Development (one A level equivalent) when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate Level 3 BTEC Nationals or A-levels;
- iv. for September 2021 and September 2022 only, BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Advanced Manufacturing Engineering (Development Technical Knowledge);
- v. a number of City and Guilds Technical courses for entry to Ulster validated courses delivered by CAFRE.

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

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Last intake 2018/19

FdA Design (Product and Graphic) at South West College (Omagh campus).

Last intake 2019/20

FdA Digital Arts and Technologies at South West College (Omagh and Enniskillen campuses)

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

Last intake 2016/17

FdSc Architectural Technology at South Eastern Regional College (Bangor campus);
FdSc Architectural Technology with Sustainable Design at South Eastern Regional College (Bangor campus);

FdSc Construction Engineering with Surveying at South Eastern Regional College (Bangor campus).

Last intake 2018/19

MSc Professional Software Development (FT) at QAHE.

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

Last intake 2017/18

FdSc Applied Medical Sciences at Southern Regional College (Newry campus).

Last intake 2020/21

MSc Advanced Clinical Optometry.