

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

5 December 2019

Agenda Item 4

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (13.11.19)

Presenter: Professor B Murphy

COVER SHEET

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
2	Aggregate Offshore Codes	To note.
3	Course Planning	To approve recommendations.
4	Asking Grade / Entry Requirement Amendments	To approve recommendation.
5	Terms of Reference	To note potential change to the Advisory Group's Terms of Reference.
6	Programme Suspensions	To note.
7	Programme Withdrawals	To note.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (13.11.19)

PRESENT

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

1 MEMBERSHIP

The Chair welcomed Ms Roisin McCart, Head of Strategic Marketing, who replaced Mr Mottershead as Marketing and Communications' representative.

The Chair thanked Mr McGivern, who would be retiring in December, for his valuable contribution to the Advisory Group and to the University overall.

2 AGGREGATE OFFSHORE CODES

Dr Crothers provided a verbal explanation of the different categories used for HESA returns in the Aggregate Offshore Record.

<u>Code</u>	<u>Provision</u>
1	Registered at reporting provider (= Ulster University) – studying overseas for UK HEP award at overseas campus of reporting provider.
2	Registered at reporting provider – studying overseas for UK HEP award other than at an overseas campus of reporting provider.
3	Registered at reporting provider – distance, flexible and distributed learning for UK HEP award where the location of the student is known to be overseas.
4	Registered at overseas partner organisation – studying overseas for an award of the reporting provider.
5	Any other student studying overseas for an award of the reporting provider [neither registered / taught: N/A].

The Advisory Group noted that:

- in terms of implications for Library resources there was no distinction between codes 1 and 2;
- the category of students was distinguished by the CA form used to present the proposal; CA1 for course for University Registered students at University outcentre (code 2) [note CA3 has been used to add outcentre location to existing provision]; CA2A for course for University Registered students at Affiliate College (eg City College, Doha) (code 2); CA2 for course for Associate Students (not University Registered students) at partner institutions (code 4);

- for future proposals, Dr Crothers would advise Mrs Peden which code would be used.

3 COURSE PLANNING

FACULTY OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Proposed MEng Hons Biomedical Engineering (with DPP) (FT) (JN)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to offer MEng Hons Biomedical Engineering (with DPP) in full-time mode at the Jordanstown campus from September 2020. It noted that:

- a BSc Hons Biomedical Engineering programme, for which the Faculty was requesting a change in award to BEng, was currently offered and that the introduction of the MEng would align this provision with the other BEng / MEng programmes offered by the School;
- applicants not meeting the MEng entry criteria could transfer from the BEng to MEng at the end of Year 2 providing they met the transfer criteria;
- no Resourcing Plan had been received.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation as part of the revalidation of Unit 10A1 in Semester 2 of 2019/20, subject to a Resourcing Plan being provided.

BSc Hons Biomedical Engineering (with DPP)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the award of the Biomedical Engineering Honours Degree from BSc to BEng from September 2020. It noted that:

- the BEng award aligned more fully with market expectations;
- the change in award would apply to all year groups from September 2020;
- external examiner support had been obtained and current students had been consulted, as had former students working in local and international companies.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

MSc Artificial Intelligence (Full-time only) and MSc Internet of Things (Full-time only)

MSc Civil and Infrastructure Engineering

MSc Energy Storage (Full-time only)

MSc Fire Safety Engineering (Full-time only)

MSc Real Estate (Full-time only)

The Advisory Group considered proposals to introduce a 240-credit point pathway (Applied Research) in each programme from 2020/21. It noted that:

- the proposal was to introduce a 'specialism' to allow a longer dissertation component whereby students could choose to take a 120-credit point dissertation module in place of the traditional 60-credit point dissertation; the Applied Research pathway would be a named specialism on the award parchment;
- business intelligence indicated that the design over two years was an expectation in the target India market and that one-year Master's programmes were often not

recognised by some employers; Mr Quinn confirmed that the Applied Research provision was very attractive to the international market;

- for visa / CAS purposes, international students would have to decide which version of the programme they wished to enrol on at the time of application;
- no information regarding student numbers had been provided and the Faculty confirmed that numbers in single figures were expected; given the small numbers envisaged, the Faculty anticipated that the workload could be managed initially within existing resources;
- external examiner support had been obtained for MSc Fire Safety Engineering but not for the other programmes;
- the first such proposal had been approved for MSc Data Science; following this proposal, Senate, in October, had approved a new regulation for longer Master's degrees so that the overall grading was determined by all Level 7 modules (ASQEC June 2019: Min 19.43 d).

RECOMMENDED: that the proposals be approved, subject to confirmation of support from the external examiners for MSc Artificial Intelligence, MSc Internet of Things, MSc Civil and Infrastructure Engineering, MSc Energy Storage and MSc Real Estate being provided.

FdEng Civil and Environmental Engineering at South West College (Dunganon, Enniskillen and Omagh)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the programme to FdEng Civil Engineering and to introduce a new part-time three-year, two-semester mode from September 2020. It noted that:

- environmental considerations were now inherent in all aspects of civil engineering and it was no longer necessary to include 'Environmental' in the programme title;
- the standard part-time mode was being introduced to adhere to a Principle for Management of the Two-Year, Three-Semester Part-Time Foundation Degrees which required a three-year, two-semester part-time mode of study to be available where a two-year, three-semester part-time mode was offered; the latter was expected to be replaced at revalidation;
- the Faculty confirmed that adequate resources were in place to accommodate the additional part-time mode;
- support of the external examiner had been obtained;
- the provision was scheduled for revalidation in November 2019; the Dunganon and Enniskillen locations would not be brought forward for revalidation.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposals be approved, subject to approval by the revalidation panel.

BEng Hons Safety Engineering and Disaster Management and MEng Hons Safety Engineering and Disaster Management

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken to recommend to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee approval of a proposal to revise the title of the programmes to 'Safety Engineering' from September 2020. It noted that:

- the Faculty had requested Chair's action be taken in order to meet a hard-copy prospectus deadline;

- both programmes had struggled to recruit since they were introduced in September 2006, a key factor being the misunderstanding among prospective students regarding the content;
- the disaster management content was encompassed in 'Safety Engineering' and a Market Insight Report supported the revised title;
- support of the external examiner had been obtained

AGREED: that Ms McCart would provide the expected deadline for the hard-copy prospectus to the Academic Office so that this could be taken into account when scheduling the 2020/21 meetings of the Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Proposed MSc Advanced Nursing Practice (PT) (JN)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to introduce MSc Advanced Nursing Practice in part-time mode at the Jordanstown campus from September 2020. It noted that:

- the School of Nursing was commissioned by the Department of Health to deliver the Advanced Nursing Practice (ANP) programme which had several pathways and was currently provided as pathways within the PgCert/PgDip/MSc Nursing programme;
- the ANP was more specialised than the MSc Nursing as, in addition to the shared core modules with MSc Nursing and MSc Health and Wellbeing, it incorporated distinct clinical modules and a clinical portfolio;
- the Faculty Accountant had advised that a Resourcing Plan was not necessary as the ANP pathway currently existed within MSc Nursing;
- no additional staffing resources would be required, but additional e-learning resources would be necessary;
- the Faculty proposed that the evaluation of this programme be included in the revalidation of Unit 22C (which includes MSc Nursing), scheduled for March 2020.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation as part of the revalidation of Unit 22C in March 2020.

MSc Applied Behaviour Analysis (FT) (CE)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal for a one-off January 2020 intake to the full-time version of MSc Applied Behaviour Analysis. It noted that:

- there had not been sufficient time to recruit to a September intake as originally proposed;
- external examiner support had been obtained;
- the Faculty Accountant had confirmed that a Resourcing Plan was not required.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

MSc Orthodontics (FT) at the College of Dentistry, Birmingham (Outcentre)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to add a January intake to the programme from January 2020. It noted that:

- a delay in obtaining the required UKVI licence had resulted in no September intake;
- this was the only programme in the Dentistry provision which had not proposed a January as well as September intake at evaluation;
- there were no resource implications;
- no information had been provided on the proposed intake;
- external examiner support had not been obtained.

AGREED: that the Faculty provide information to the Advisory Group on the proposed January cohort size.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

Advanced Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing and Postgraduate Certificate in Non-Medical Prescribing

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the titles of the programmes to 'Nurse and Midwife Prescribing' from September 2020.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

Proposed BSc Hons Marine Science (with optional DPP/DIAS) (FT) (CE)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and Resourcing Plan to offer BSc Hons Marine Science in full-time mode at the Coleraine campus from September 2021. It noted that:

- the programme had been withdrawn, with its last intake in September 2015, arising from work of the Business Review Group in 2014/15;
- the new programme, which consisted of five new modules and shared modules, was part of the School's wider marketing and recruitment strategy to address a fall in applications to Geography and Environmental Science programmes;
- a supplementary assessment had been provided to support the Faculty's request for approval without an evaluation event;
- the external assessor, whose report was very positive overall, had made a number of informal suggestions relating to matters such as titles and content of some modules;
- no additional staffing or physical resources were required and Mrs Peden confirmed that there were no issues regarding the Library resources for the programme;
- the Resourcing Plan received by the Advisory Group stated that a drop by 5% in student numbers would result in the course falling into deficit; the Faculty had however subsequently drawn up a financial plan which took into account the other two programmes sharing modules with Marine Science; this revised Resourcing Plan showed the proposal to be more lucrative.

AGREED:

- (i) that the Faculty take the external assessor's comments on board;
- (ii) that the Chair discuss the proposal with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) as it was a reversal of the decision made in 2014/15 by the Business Review Group.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved without evaluation, subject to receipt of the revised Resourcing Plan in CMS.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Proposed Extended MSc Strategic Accounting (FT) (JN)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to offer an Extended MSc Strategic Accounting in full-time mode at the Jordanstown campus from January 2020. It noted that:

- discussions with recruitment agents and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) had indicated interest from graduates of Bachelor of Commerce (BComm) programmes in Asia and Ireland in progressing to MSc Strategic Accounting; students with a BComm were awarded four exemptions by ACCA but entry to MSc Strategic Accounting was based on students having exemption from, or having completed, nine ACCA examinations; the Extended Master's would incorporate more Level 6 modules than a normal Master's degree to address this gap (80 credits);
- a Graduate Certificate or Diploma was not considered attractive to prospective international students as their visa would only cover one programme; the Extended Master's would provide a seamless progression route for visa purposes;
- the January 2020 intake was the standard timing and students would join entrants to the 180 credit-point MSc in September;
- no additional staffing or physical resources were required and the Faculty Accountant had confirmed that the proposal did not warrant a Resourcing Plan as it was based entirely on existing Graduate Diploma and MSc courses;
- the external assessor's report was positive;
- the Faculty was proposing no evaluation event as the modules currently existed.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

FdSc Hospitality and Tourism Management (Hospitality pathway and Culinary Arts pathway) at South Eastern Regional College (Bangor campus)

The Advisory Group noted that the Faculty had approved a revision to defer the first intake to the part-time HLA mode to January 2020 for one intake only, reverting to September intake from September 2020. It was also noted that the Faculty would underwrite the additional quality assurance overhead associated with the asynchronous delivery of this cohort.

BSc Hons Business Studies (Level 6) at City College, Doha

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to add a January intake to BSc Hons Business Studies (Level 6) at City College, Doha from January 2020. It noted that:

- the programme had been approved late in the marketing and potential student recruitment cycle resulting in insufficient time to fully promote it and secure a viable cohort for a September 2019 intake;
- there would be two intakes per year in September and January, with the larger intake in September;

- a feeder school for the programme with a Level 5 Diploma offered a January intake which meant that students would be seeking Level 6 progression in January; the January intake would also give other students time to achieve the required IELTS qualification;
- although there would be some overlap in delivery of modules for both intakes, some modules would have to be delivered to two separate cohorts; the Faculty confirmed that it would underwrite the additional quality assurance overhead associated with two cohorts;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

MSc International Event Management and MSc International Tourism Management

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and Resourcing Plan to add a January intake to the MSc International Event Management and MSc International Tourism Management programmes from January 2020. It noted that:

- this proposal was part of a wider Faculty strategy to identify programmes in each Department for a January intake thereby providing more flexibility and increasing student numbers;
- the proposal was supported by Global Engagement and by Marketing and Communications, as well as by the external examiner;
- Marketing and Communications and Global Engagement were working on a broader January intake campaign.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

MSc International Tourism Management and MSc International Hospitality Management

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to amalgamate MSc International Tourism Management and MSc International Hospitality Management into a revised programme, MSc International Tourism and Hospitality Management from September 2020, and to introduce a new optional Advanced Practice pathway. It noted that:

- four of the taught core modules were currently shared between both programmes;
- feedback from current students, employers and external examiners supported the consolidation of the two programmes;
- Global Engagement confirmed the appeal of the Advanced Practice pathway to the international market; this pathway had already been added to three other Master's programmes offered by the Faculty;
- external examiner support had been obtained;
- the provision was due for revalidation in February 2020.

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

Proposed MSc Agri Food Global Competitiveness

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to revise the title of the proposed programme to 'Food Design and Innovation'. It noted that:

- the programme had been endorsed by APAG at its meeting in June 2018 but was only now ready for evaluation which was scheduled for February 2020;

- the change in title was in response to feedback from employers and was part of a wider strategic direction being taken by the Faculty following a successful bid for SIF funding;
- external support had been obtained.

RECOMMENDED: that the revised title be approved, subject to evaluation.

BSc Hons Management and Leadership Development

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken to recommend to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee approval of a proposal to revise the title of the programme to 'BSc Hons Management' from September 2020. It noted that:

- the Chair's recommendation of approval was on the basis that the new title would apply only to new entrants for 2020; this had been confirmed by the Faculty;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

AGREED that Chair's action be endorsed.

BSc Hons Culinary Arts Management (FT) (BT)

BSc Hons International Hospitality Management (FT) (BT)

BSc Hons International Travel and Tourism Management (including Major and Minor) (FT) (CE)

BSc Hons Leisure and Event Management (FT) (CE)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to change the DPP/DIAS year from compulsory to optional in the four programmes from September 2020. It noted that:

- the vast majority of programmes in the Faculty did not have a year compulsory placement and the proposal was in line with the norm in the HE sector in hospitality and tourism disciplines;
- most students on these programmes undertook related part-time employment;
- many opportunities for different forms of work-based or work-based learning were built into the curricula of the programmes and co- and extracurricula activities;
- the School would continue to promote local and international placement opportunities and it was envisaged that the majority of students would choose to take the placement year as they appreciated its value;
- external examiner support had been obtained;
- there were over 100 students on placement in 2019/20 and this proposal had a potential significant impact on the University's academic plan.

Mr McGivern confirmed that the embedding of employability was evident within the Department's programmes. He reminded the Advisory Group that one of the University's Unique Selling Points was employability-focused provision and he expressed concern that proposals of this type could have a detrimental impact on the University's reputation as a leading provider of placement and vocational programmes. Research had demonstrated that completion of a placement year had an important impact on student performance and graduate employment. Should the proposal be approved, the number of students choosing to undertake the placement year would require close monitoring and review.

Professor Farley advised that she had discussed the proposal with Professor Bartholomew, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), who had indicated that he would accept the proposal subject to it being kept under review. The Chair stated that he would discuss the matter with Professor Bartholomew.

AGREED: that the Chair discuss with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) the implications for the University's expectation for compulsory work-based learning in all Honours degrees (Senate 2015).

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved.

4 ASKING GRADE / ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AMENDMENTS

The Advisory Group noted that Chair's action had been taken on behalf of the Advisory Group to recommend to the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee approval of a request from the Faculty of Life and Health Sciences to make changes to asking grades or entry requirements as follows:

- (i) To lower the asking grades from current range BBB-CCC to BCC for:
 - BSc Hons Environmental Science
 - BSc Hons Environmental Science with Education
 - BSc Hons Environmental Science with Psychology
 - BSc Hons Geography
 - BSc Hons Geography with Education
 - BSc Hons Geography with Psychology.

- (ii) To replace compulsory A-Level Geography requirement with *preference* for a STEM / science A-Level for:
 - BSc Hons Geography
 - BSc Hons Geography with Education
 - BSc Hons Geography with Psychology.

- (iii) To remove compulsory A-Level subject requirements for:
 - BSc Hons Speech and Language Therapy.

It was noted that:

- Chair's action had been taken based on the evidence presented to the Chair and in view of the hard-copy prospectus deadline but that Strategic Planning was concerned that the grades remained too high to ensure the Faculty's desired outcome; Strategic Planning had requested that all Faculties consider lowering grades further;
- there was a dual process in place for approval of amendments to asking grades:
 - (a) submission of a case for consideration by the Advisory Group;
 - (b) through the Admissions Monitoring and Recruitment Group (AMRG) at the end of the admissions monitoring cycle.

AGREED: that Dr Crothers provide an update on changes to asking grades approved through AMRG to the Advisory Group.

RECOMMENDED: that the amendments be approved.

5 TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Advisory Group received its Terms of Reference and Membership. It was noted that the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee had responsibility for the Admissions Policy and that its Chair was considering asking the Advisory Group to take this on. This would involve adding a term of reference: "To keep under review the University's Admission Policy".

FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

6 PROGRAMME SUSPENSIONS

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

2019/20 intake

Access Diploma in Computing for the Economy at Belfast Metropolitan College (Millfield) (Part-time mode only);
FdEng Architectural Engineering and Energy at South West College (Dungannon) (Full-time mode only);
FdEng Civil Engineering at North West Regional College (Strand Road);
FdSc Construction Engineering with Surveying at North West Regional College (Strand Road).

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

2019/20 intake

FdSc Health and Social Care at Southern Regional College (Banbridge) (Full-time mode only);
FdSc Sport, Exercise and Fitness at North West Regional College (Strand Road) (Full-time mode only).

2019/20 and 2020/21 intakes

FdSc Applied and Medical Science at Northern Regional College (Newtownabbey and Coleraine) (Full-time mode only).

Ulster University Business School

2019/20 intake

FdSc Financial Services Management at South West College (Omagh).

7 PROGRAMME WITHDRAWALS

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Last intake 2015/16

Certificate in Irish Immersion Education: Early Years at North West Regional College (Strand Road);
BSc Hons Creative Technologies (ME);
BDes Hons Design (with Specialisms) (ME);
PgDip/MDes Design Communication (ME).

Last intake 2019/20

AB in English and History at Southern Regional College (Newry);
Level 6 modules in English and History at Southern Regional College (Newry) (Outcentre delivery by the University).

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

Last intake 2019/20

BSc Hons Social Psychology (CE);
PgDip/MSc Environmental Management and Geographic Information Systems (DL).

Ulster University Business School

Last intake 2012/13

BSc Hons International Hotel and Tourism Management (BT).

Last intake 2013/14

MSc Cultural Management (BT).

Last intake 2019/20

MSc International Hospitality Management (BT).

AG/AGF