

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

30 November 2018

Agenda Item 4.1

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (13.11.18)

COVER SHEET

Action is required of the Committee as indicated below

<u>Item</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	Course Planning	To approve recommendations.
2	Programme Suspensions	To note.
3	Programme Withdrawals	To note.

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM THE ACADEMIC PLANNING ADVISORY GROUP (13.11.18)

PRESENT

Professor B P Murphy (Chair), Miss M Ashfaq (for Mrs McCarthy), Dr S Crothers, Professor H Farley (for Professor M Durkin), Mr A G Faulkner, Mrs R McEvoy, Mr D McGivern, Mr S Mottershead, Mrs J Peden, Mrs E Thompson

1 COURSE PLANNING

ACCESS, DIGITAL AND DISTRIBUTED LEARNING

Postgraduate Certificate in Professional Practice

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to change the title of the programme to Postgraduate Certificate in Graduate Leadership from 2019/20. It noted that:

- the programme was scheduled for revalidation in December 2018;
- the proposed new title better reflected the philosophy, purpose and aims of the programme;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

RECOMMENDED: that the new title be approved from September 2019, subject to approval by the revalidation panel.

FACULTY OF ARTS, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Proposed BA Hons Screen Production

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and business case to offer BA Hons Screen Production in full-time and part-time modes at the Belfast campus from September 2019. It noted that:

- the proposal was an outcome of a Faculty-wide ongoing review of existing Media provision, consultation with staff and an extensive review process with stakeholders;
- Belfast was the preferred campus, but this had not yet been finalised;
- additional staffing resources were required; this would be addressed through replacement posts (1.5 FTE) and strategic investment posts (2.0 FTE) in film/media production and technical support;
- a significant amount of equipment had already been purchased for the BA Hons Media Studies and Production programme at Coleraine which had recently been withdrawn; the programme would continue to be supported as it phased out;
- the MaSN from the Media Studies and Production course would be transferred to the new course;

- Queen's University Belfast had introduced a new BA Hons Broadcast Production; this programme differed from the proposed BA Hons Screen Production in terms of breadth and focus, as well as the tariff requirement.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation for a September 2019 start, subject to engagement with the Library and clarification of student numbers.

Proposed MSc Games Design (FT) (BT/DL)

The Advisory Group noted that the Faculty had advised that the proposal, which had previously been approved to proceed to planning and evaluation for a September 2019 start, subject to a number of conditions, would not be progressed and that a proposal for a new programme, BDes Hons Games Design, would be submitted in due course.

FACULTY OF COMPUTING, ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Proposed MSc Artificial Intelligence (FT/PT) (JN)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and business case to offer MSc Artificial Intelligence in full-time and part-time modes at the Jordanstown campus from September 2019. It noted that:

- the proposal had been informed by a strong research base and was part of the Faculty's strategic plan to increase non-MaSN activity and the number of international students;
- there was currently no similar course offered in Northern Ireland;
- September and January intakes were proposed; international students in the January intake would be encouraged to undertake an internship during the summer period; it was anticipated that each year 60% of the student cohort would be part-time and 80% of the year intake would be in the September intake;
- no additional resources were required; the Subject Librarian had confirmed that no additional Library costs were envisaged;
- the full-time cohort would be taught three evenings per week.

Concerns were raised regarding the student experience for those, in particular international, students starting in January and the internship opportunity that would be available for the January intake but not for those starting in September. It was also noted that it would be important to make applicants aware that the full-time course would be delivered in the evening.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved to proceed to planning and evaluation for a September 2019 start, subject to confirmation of the course costings by the Faculty Accountant and the proposed student numbers.

Proposed MSc Mechanical Engineering (FT/PT) (JN)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and business case to offer MSc Mechanical Engineering in full-time and part-time modes at the Jordanstown campus from September 2019. It noted that:

- the proposal had been informed by a strong research base and was part of the Faculty's strategic plan to increase non-MaSN activity and the number of international students;
- the programme was essentially the final year of the MEng Mechanical Engineering programme with one new module and would therefore not require additional resources;
- no other MSc Mechanical Engineering programmes were offered in Northern Ireland although Queen's University Belfast offered an MSc Mechanical Engineering and Management;
- September and January intakes were proposed; international students in the January intake would be encouraged to undertake an internship during the summer period as no modules were offered.

The Advisory Group noted that this new proposal and a number of others discussed at the meeting had not previously been notified to Planning for inclusion in the Academic Plan.

AGREED: that the timeline for entering course proposals in the Academic Plan be discussed by Professor Murphy and Dr Crothers and guidance be issued to Faculties.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved without evaluation for a September 2019 start, subject to inconsistencies in the proposed student numbers in the CA1 and course costings being addressed and the proposal being revised in accordance with guidance provided by the Academic Office and re-submitted with the required supplementary evidence and revised course costings.

FACULTY OF LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

MSc Stratified Medicine

The Advisory Group considered a course revision proposal to introduce a January intake to the programme from January 2019. It noted that:

- the programme was scheduled for revalidation on 16 November 2018;
- the January start would facilitate more applicants, including international students, who had missed the September intake; enquiries had been received from potential applicants, including an international student, about a January start;
- no modules were currently offered over the summer period but the programme was offered by distance learning, so this might be a possibility in future depending on student demand.

RECOMMENDED: that the January intake be approved, subject to approval by the revalidation panel. [Note: this was approved by the revalidation panel on 16.11.18.]

Proposed MBBS Medicine (FT) (ME)

The Advisory Group noted that the start date for the proposed MBBS Medicine would now be September 2020, and not September 2019 as originally proposed. The evaluation event would be scheduled for Spring 2020.

BSc Hons Biomedical Science (with DPP (Pathology)) (FT/PT) (CE)

The Advisory Group considered a course revision proposal to change the title of the programme to BSc Hons Applied Biomedical Science from September 2019.

It was noted that the new title had been approved by the revalidation panel and by the Institute of Biomedical Science on 30 October 2018.

RECOMMENDED: that the change in title be approved.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY BUSINESS SCHOOL

Proposed MSc Professional Services Operational Delivery (with PgCert and PgDip exit awards) (PT) (JN)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal and business case to offer MSc Professional Services Operational Delivery in part-time mode at the Jordanstown campus from January 2019. It noted that:

- the Faculty was requesting approval without evaluation on the basis that the programme, with the exception of one module, derived from the PgDip/MSc Global Capital Markets, which had been evaluated in June 2018;
- PwC Operate was providing sponsorship for 15 graduate employees to take the programme in January 2019; this sponsorship would be on an ongoing basis;
- the title had been chosen to reflect the specifications set by PwC; the course was not open-entry.

Discussion took place around the appropriateness of charging all students the home fee regardless of whether they were home students or international students. It was noted that the Faculty was permitted to charge international students the home fee if it wished, but that it was essential that Planning and Finance were notified of any international students on the home fee as this would have implications for statutory returns.

AGREED: that Finance, Planning and Admissions discuss the use of the 'residency' flag and determine a way of identifying international students on home fees.

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be approved without evaluation, as a closed course for PwC employees on a home fee basis, for a January 2019 start.

FdSc Business Services Management (FT/PT) at South West College (Dungannon, Enniskillen and Omagh campuses)

The Advisory Group considered a proposal to change the title of the programme to FdSc Business Management from September 2019. It noted that:

- the programme was scheduled for revalidation in January 2019;
- College staff, students and the Faculty were in agreement that the new title was more appropriate and would appeal to potential employers;
- external examiner support had been obtained.

RECOMMENDED: that the new title be approved from September 2019 intake, subject to approval by the revalidation panel.

FOR INFORMATION [noted by the Academic Planning Advisory Group]

2 PROGRAMME SUSPENSIONS IN PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

No intake 2018/19

Access Diploma in Computing at South West College (Cookstown (FT/PT), Dungannon (FT), Enniskillen (FT/PT) and Omagh (FT/PT) campuses);
FdSc Architectural Technology (FT) at South West College (Omagh campus).

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

No intake 2018/19

FdSc Applied and Medical Sciences (FT) at Southern Regional College (Newry campus);
FdSc Applied and Medical Sciences (FT/PT) at South Eastern Regional College (Downpatrick campus).

Ulster University Business School

No intake 2018/19

FdSc International Hospitality and Tourism Management (PT) at South West College (Newry campus);
FdSc Tourism, Hospitality and Events at South Eastern Regional College (Bangor (FT/PT), Downpatrick (FT/PT) and Lisburn (FT) campuses).

3 PROGRAMME WITHDRAWALS

Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Last intake 2016/17

MSc Restorative Practice (JN).

Last intake 2017/18

Certificate in Restorative Practice (JN).

Last intake 2018/19

BA Hons Ceramics, Jewellery and Silversmithing (BT);
BA Hons Media Studies and Production (CE);
Undergraduate Hons Subject: Media (CE).

Faculty of Computing, Engineering and the Built Environment

Last intake 2014/15

BSc Hons Building Engineering and Materials (JN).

No intake

FdEng Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at South Eastern Regional College (Bangor campus).

Faculty of Life and Health Sciences

Last intake 2017/18

BSc Hons Biotechnology (CE).

Last intake 2018/19

BSc Hons Applied Biosciences (DL).

Ulster University Business School

Last intake 2017/18

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Business Economics (JN) [replaced with Single Hons only];

Undergraduate Hons Subject: Economics (JN) [replaced with Single Hons only].

AGF/AG