EXTRACT FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE: 21.2.17

17.16 GRADE POINT AVERAGE

Dr Moore provided clarification on a number of issues that were discussed when an interim report was presented to Learning and Teaching Committee on 19th October 2016, namely the inclusion of all years in the calculation, the implications for student records and other University systems and the timing of the introduction of the system.

a GPA Calculation

Dr Moore told the committee that the working group used a GPA data modelling exercise applied to the results of the different 2015/16 graduating student cohorts. The results of the exercise proved inconsistent in that no particular trend was identified supporting one approach or the other. In light of this the group recommended that the GPA calculation be based on all years with no additional weighting for years or levels.

 b Student Record System

The working group received a report from ISD on the resource implications of the introduction of the GPA. The report estimated that it would require up to 9 months of development and testing before it could be functional. Attention was also drawn to the cost involved in incorporating GPA with the HEAR.

c Timing of the Introduction of the GPA

It was noted that the GPA could not be introduced until at least 2018. The working group however concluded that due to a lack of uncertainty over Government commitment to the introduction of the GPA, limited adoption of the practice across the sector and potential confusion amongst employers it not be prudent to continue to pursue this at Ulster. They recommended that further consideration be deferred pending a future steer from Government or other developments within the sector.

The committee thanked Dr Moore and the working group for the extensive work that they had carried out to date and agreed with the recommendation of the working group.