

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee - Friday 20 February 2009

**Departmental Programmes of Teaching, Learning and
Assessment: Additional Responses to the
Recommendations Arising from the Review of the
Department of Politics held on 14 March 2007**

Ms Jane McAllister, Senate Office

Recommendation 3

The Department should consider adopting a policy that, at least at Level 2 and above, each student essay will be returned individually by a member of staff who had marked it. [Section C.3.6]

For the attention of the **Head of Department**

Response:

The Department decided that at Level 1 and Level 2 (where there are a total of 600 students), special tutorials be devoted to feedback, with tutors responsible for marking being present. Tutors have Office Hours when students can also talk to them individually, and they are encouraged to do so. At Level 3, Honours and PGT it is already the case that students have individual access to their teachers to discuss any matters, including feedback on assessed work.

Additional Response:

The Department can only re-iterate that from Level 3 upwards (i.e. at Level 3, Honours and at PGT) students are given full written feedback on essays and other assignments. In addition, students are very welcome to talk to members of staff about their essays, either during formal office hours (and each colleagues is required to have at least two separate hours for this purpose) or by appointment

Recommendation 5

The Department consider how it might incorporate a closer focus on personal development planning in its plans to increase student awareness of course learning outcomes. [Section C.4.4]

For the attention of the **Head of Department**

Response:

This matter has been discussed at Staff Meetings, and the Quality Officer has been charged with investigating appropriate means of putting this recommendation into effect bearing in mind that the Department has 900+ students and a staff: student ratio of 1:25 and that no extra resources have been made available to aid the personal development programme. Each student has a personal tutor, and it may be

that this is the mechanism, by which the recommendation can be implemented. This matter is to be further discussed at the department's teaching review on 11 June.

Additional response:

The Department is committed to PDP for students, has appointed a member of the academic staff as the PDP Officer and will comply fully with the University's policy on the matter. The LBSS FMG is currently formulating methods by which the University's policy on PDP can be implemented and the Department of Politics will fully engage with the process.