

**University of Glasgow****Academic Standards Committee - Friday 20 February 2009****Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and the Free Church  
of Scotland College – 22 January 2009****Mrs Jackie McCluskey****1 Remit and Membership of the Joint Board**

The Joint Board noted that there were no changes required to the Remit however the Membership List required amendment to reflect the new Convener, Professor Graham Caie; the new Head of Department, Dr Heather Walton and the new Student Representative, Mr Calum MacMillan. Members also agreed that Professor Jasper, who had normally attended the Board as Professor Moignard's representative, should be invited to join the Board in his own right. In addition, it was agreed that an amendment was required to reflect the fact that the administrative support had in practice been provided by a member of staff from the Senate Office. The Board **resolved to recommend** to Academic Standards Committee the revised membership for Session 2008-09 attached as Appendix 1.

**2 Review of Validation Fees**

Members were advised that the University's Senior Management Group had approved the review of validation fees to reflect the principle of full economic costing. In addition, given the delay in the review, it had been agreed that the new fee regime would not be introduced until session 2009-10 with any increases being phased in over a 3 year period. The current fee schedule would therefore apply for session 2008-09 and the Memorandum of Agreement would be reviewed to reflect the new fee schedule and the move to six-yearly validation previously discussed.

**3 UKBA Points Based System for Immigration**

Members were advised of the College's decision to apply for accreditation as a sponsor institution in its own right. Although the University had indicated its in principle agreement to assume sponsor responsibility on behalf of the College's students, it had subsequently been identified that this would not have covered students on non-University programmes nor College staff. The University representatives confirmed that they were happy to offer the College assistance with their sponsor licence application if required.

**4 Report on Teaching Programmes**

The Board considered the College's annual report for session 2007-08 which covered the B Theology and M Theology programmes.

Members noted that the BTh and MTh programmes ran smoothly with all students performing satisfactorily. Five BTh students graduated in July 2008, one with distinction and four with Merit. Six new students had enrolled in September 2008 for the B Theology programme, three of which were

candidates for the Free Church Ministry. The first MTh candidates graduated in July 2008 and three new full-time candidates had registered which brought the total of MTh students to eight.

## **5 Retiral of Professor Donald MacDonald**

Members were advised of the forthcoming retiral of the Professor of Apologetics and Practical Theology, Professor Donald MacDonald. The Principal advised that the College Board had agreed to replace him with external part-time lecturers, under the supervision of the Professor of Systematic Theology. This arrangement would run for a period of three years when the situation would be reviewed. Members were assured that there would be no change in the philosophy underlying the programme and its delivery. The Principal also advised that the College was also actively seeking a replacement Disability Coordinator, a role currently undertaken by Professor MacDonald.

## **6 Amendment to Regulations**

Members noted that some students who opted to undertake Elementary Hebrew in their second year were struggling to complete the first semester. The College therefore proposed that students who had failed to secure a Grade D or higher in Elementary Hebrew should be allowed to transfer to the alternative course after one semester. The Board was advised that the alternative to Elementary Hebrew (or Greek) was Christian Spirituality/World Religions, which was a course consisting of two components. Members questioned what the student would resit when their overall mark – the aggregate of the two – was still below that required for progression. After some discussion, the Board agreed that in the interim, the current students affected would be allowed to transfer and that, if required, the re-assessment would be in World Religions. It was also agreed that for the longer term the College would submit a more detailed proposal for consideration at the Board meeting in June 2009. A decision would be made at that point whether or not a change to the regulations was required.

## **7 M Theology Students.**

The Board agreed to further minor amendments to the procedures document which had been agreed at the Joint Board meeting in June 2008.

There was further discussion on the input of the second supervisors from the University. Members were advised that the practice in the University was for students to have frequent recourse to both supervisors and for supervisors to meet annually as a minimum. The Board agreed, therefore, that the role of the University supervisor should be expanded in line with University guidelines.

## **8 New Programme**

Members noted the College's plans for a new *Master of Theology in Scottish Church History and Theology* programme. This development was likely to be submitted to the Joint Board for detailed consideration at the meeting in June 2009.

## **9 Recognition of the Staff of the Free Church of Scotland College**

The Joint Board **resolved to recommend to ASC** that the under noted staff be recognised as teachers of the University for the purpose of teaching on courses leading to Degrees of the University:

**Rev Professor Donald Macleod, MA**

*(Systemic Theology)*

**Rev Professor John L Mackay, MA, MLitt, BD**

*(Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology)*

**Rev Professor Donald M MacDonald, MB, ChB, FRCS Ed**

*(Apologetics and Practical Theology)*

**Rev Professor John A Macleod, MA, BD**

*(New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology)*

**Rev Professor John R McIntosh, BA, MLitt, BD, PhD**

*(Church History and Church Principles)*

## **10 External Examiners' Report**

The Joint Board received copies of the relevant reports. Members were pleased to note the positive comments of the External Examiners which were echoed by the Associate Dean in the Faculty of Arts who had attended the Examination Boards as an observer.

## **11 Student Representative Report**

Members were also pleased to hear from the College's Student Representative that there were no major concerns with the student body. The students were content with the level of representation and the opportunities they had to provide feedback or discuss any concerns. Members were advised that the College Senate had been very responsive to the views of the students.

## Appendix 1

### Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and The Free Church of Scotland College

#### Membership 2008-2009

##### *University of Glasgow*

Clerk of Senate (Convener)	Professor Graham Caie
Dean of Faculty of Arts (or nominee)	Professor Elizabeth Moignard
Head of Department of Theology or Religious Studies (or nominee)	Dr Heather Walton
Associate Dean of PG Studies – Faculty of Arts	Professor David Jasper

##### *The College*

Principal of the College (Vice Convener)	Professor Donald Macleod
Two Representatives of the Teaching Staff	Professor John L Mackay Professor John R McIntosh
President of the SRC	Mr Calum Macmillan

##### **In attendance**

Director of Senate Office (or nominee)	Mrs Jackie McCluskey (Clerk)
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January 2009