

**University of Glasgow****Academic Standards Committee - 9 October 2009****Report of the Meeting of the Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and Christie's Education****Catherine Omand, Senate Office****1 Accreditation by the British Accreditation Council**

The Board noted that the University had assumed sponsor responsibility for Christie's Education students. Consequently, Christie's Education students now apply to the undergraduate programme through UCAS via the University and applications for Taught Postgraduate programmes via the University's Direct Admissions System. Christie's Education was confident that a robust attendance monitoring system could be established.

**2 PhD Supervision**

Following discussion with Professor Jasper, Convener of the Faculty of Arts Higher Degrees Committee, it was proposed that Christie's Education accept PhD candidates, subject to fulfilling Faculty regulations. Since supervisors were required to have a PhD and experience of PhD supervision, the number of staff able to supervise would be minimal. Subsequently, only a limited number of PhD students could initially be admitted. Staff with limited experience would be partnered with experienced staff. Members agreed that Christie's Education could offer unique areas for study and would complement that already offered by the Department of the History of Art.

The Joint Board resolved to recommend to the Academic Standards Committee that Christie's Education admits PhD candidates, subject to Faculty of Arts regulations.

**3 External Examiner Reports**

The Course Directors satisfactorily addressed the concerns raised in the External Examiner Reports. Members noted the positive comments raised by Professor Taylor, in particular, his praise for the relationship with Glasgow University. Members agreed that staff and students now felt a greater sense of community with the University and were aware of the facilities available at Glasgow.

**4 Graduate Diploma and MLitt Pathways**

Following discussion from the last Joint Board, it was proposed that all students apply directly onto the MLitt programme. Appropriate adjustments would be made to the MLitt programme to allow students to take the appropriate number of credits for MLitt, PG Diploma or PG Certificate. The Board was advised that there had been a decline in applications since the introduction of the MLitt in 1998 and further decline since the re-accreditation of the Diploma as a Graduate Diploma.

However, it was further proposed that the Graduate Diploma be retained for students with a professional background who may not have a first degree but have demonstrated sufficient experience at interview. The Graduate Diploma could still be used as a conversion Diploma for those who wish to undertake Master's level.

## **5 Interim Reports on MLitt, Graduate Diploma and MA (Hons) Programmes**

- 5.1 The Board considered the interim report and noted the detailed responses to students' concerns raised at the Staff/Student Forum.
- 5.2 A number of study trips had been undertaken by Christie's Education students including a successful trip to Glasgow. The trip highlighted the association with the University.
- 5.3 Professors D Ekserdjian and R Lumley had been appointed as External Examiners, replacing Professors Cormack and Taylor. They join Ms R Kerr. All External Examiners had visited Christie's Education and had the opportunity to review the assessment. Grading had also been monitored by Dr Michael and the Course Directors to ensure the Code of Assessment was being implemented accurately.
- 5.4 The Board considered the applications to date. Overall, Christie's Education was satisfied with the level of applications but hoped that the changes made to the application process would increase the level of applications for the Graduate Diploma.

## **6 Library/Learning Resources Report**

The Board considered a detailed report submitted by the Learning Resources Manager. It was noted that the extension of the loan period from overnight to 3 days had proven successful. Masters' students borrowing allowance had also been increased over the summer period and a new reference-only facility had been introduced to ensure availability of popular books. Christie's Education students also had additional access to other specialist libraries. However it was hoped that staff and students at Christie's Education might gain access to the University's electronic library resources for 2009-2010. The Board advised that this should be discussed further with the University's Chief Librarian.

The Board noted the additional facilities provided for students such as the creation of a purpose-built museum and small audio visual room. Both rooms also provided space for group study. Broadband coverage had been extended to two further lecture theatres and the Museum Room and a wireless range expander had been purchased and would be operational for Session 2009-2010.

## **7 Student Representation**

The Board was advised that it was a University requirement to have student representation on all committees and therefore Christie's Education should nominate an appropriate representative for the Joint Board. It was suggested that, in the absence of a sabbatical officer, the student representatives could elect a representative for the Joint Board.