

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee - Friday 20 November 2009**Actions Arising from Annual Monitoring for Session 2007-08 –
Further Update****Ms Helen Butcher, Clerk to the Committee**

At its last meeting ASC considered a number of responses to actions identified from the FQAO Report on Annual Course Monitoring in 2007-08. A response has now been received from Estates & Buildings (responses are given in **bold** text below).

Estates & Buildings

The following actions were drawn to the attention of the Director of Estates & Buildings:

Teaching Accommodation:

- A number of Faculties reported ongoing difficulties with securing appropriate accommodation on the main University campus for small group teaching;

CRB have reported shortage of space available in the 20-50 room capacity category. It is hoped future developments can increase space availability in this category.

- Request for University (E&B) to conduct an annual review and upgrade of teaching rooms;

E&B has completed a detailed condition survey of all 46 L T's and seminar rooms. The review of LT's is complete. It is anticipated a report will be presented to Nov 2009 Estates Committee. A detailed survey of CRB Teaching Spaces was authorised and completed during the summer of 2009. The outcomes will be reviewed and a report prepared for presentation to Estates Committee in 2010.

- Lack of accommodation for classes of 30-40 students (also be referred to the Vice Principal (Strategy & Resources) for action in collaboration with E&B).

Estates & Buildings and the Vice Principal (Strategy and Resources) have recently reviewed accommodation for class sizes in this range and above. Committee approved a proposal to redevelop the Senate Room and former East Registry. While the Senate Room will continue to function as a space for formal University functions and meetings it is proposed to develop the space to accommodate teaching. The refurbished East Registry has been designed to accommodate teaching of class sizes 30 - 40 on ground floor and new mezzanine floor. Estates and Buildings are currently developing scheme designs for presentation to the Vice Principal (Strategy and Resources) to refurbish former West Registry for teaching to accommodate class sizes of 25 - 30.

Central Room Bookings:

- Improvements in the efficiency of central room bookings with particular attention to avoiding unnecessary movement of courses between rooms;

Movement of courses between rooms is primarily a result of the Faculty entry system, and in honours courses mainly the uncertainty over class sizes until registration takes place. In addition, different departments have different process and timescales for enrolling courses e.g. some Level 1 courses delay enrolling till the first day of teaching while in honours some classes enrol before Session starts, some within the first week of teaching and others give taster classes and do not enrol until week 3. Also, due to uncertainty of class size estimates most departments that own departmental space will request CRB space for classes that will ultimately go into their own departmental space but this adds to the initial pressure on CRB space. Therefore with tightening resources overall on space available and working to class size estimates there is an increasing need to move classes at the beginning of Session in order to provide an overall fit of classes. Many of these issues require consideration and guidance from senior University management to help provide an overall more efficient and consistent environment and processes, or inevitably related issues will continue to arise. CRB will meantime continue to discuss the general specific issues via the Super Users group and resolve matters ad hoc as and when they arise.

- Central Room Bookings confirmed teaching rooms quite close to the start of the first semester, making it difficult for staff to react to the allocation of teaching space and for any unsuitable assignments to be swapped.

A number of departments and/or individual staff cannot manage to timetable their courses until August/ September which means they are competing against classes already allocated and confirmed.

Request from the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine:

FQAEO agreed that the request from Veterinary Medicine for increased commitment and support from Estates and Buildings for identified projects should be taken forward by dialogue between the Director of Estates & Buildings and Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Estates and Buildings has recently supported the Dean of Veterinary Medicine to successfully deliver £ 25m+ capital development within the boundary of Garscube Estates (Veterinary Campus). Estates and Buildings support the Faculty on a daily basis at Garscube and Cochno Farm relative to grounds, reactive and planned maintenance where there are full time Estates staff based at Garscube.

Over the last 18 months Estates and Buildings have successfully supported the Dean to deliver:

**Small Animal Hospital £18 m+
Weipers Equine Centre Stable Extension £0.5m
Large Animal Accommodation £1.5 m (ex VAT)**

In 2009/2010 E & B are working with Vet colleagues to:

**Rationalise and reconfigure existing buildings
Develop proposals to advance a new teaching and social building
Develop a new build National Centre of Excellence in Virology**