

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 19 February 2010

University Re-structuring – Implications for Academic Standards Committee

Ms Helen Butcher, Clerk to the Committee

The Convener of ASC held a meeting with key working group/sub-committee conveners, clerks and the clerk of ASC to consider elements of ASC business which would require revision to accommodate the University's revised structure in 2010-11. Current structures involving Faculties and Departments will be replaced by four Colleges and Schools.

The following amendments are proposed and are presented to ASC for discussion.

Composition of ASC and its Sub-Committees

ASC

Currently ASC is composed of the Convener, the Clerk of Senate, the Vice Principal Learning and Teaching, one SRC representative and 11 academic representatives (one from each of the 9 Faculties, and one each from the Dental School and Dumfries campus). In addition there are representatives from a number of administrative services, and one observing member from the General Council.

It is proposed that 3 academic representatives per College serve on ASC giving a total of 12 academic representatives. Colleges would be encouraged to provide representatives covering a sufficiently broad range of subject areas and levels of student activity (undergraduate and postgraduate). The rest of the composition would remain unchanged.

Academic Regulations Sub-Committee

Currently ARSC is composed of representatives of each Faculty, with the exception of the 3 Science Faculties which are represented by 2 members; there is also an SRC representative, and on a temporary basis a representative from SLP. (There is a vacancy for the representative for Education). The Convener is also a Faculty representative.

It is proposed that there are two representatives from each of the 4 Colleges, with the exception of Arts which would have one representative. The SRC representative would continue as would the SLP representative. The total membership of the sub-committee would reduce from 10 to 9.

Programme Approval Groups

4 PAGs would remain in place. These would each cover programme approval business for one College. Membership of each PAG would comprise 3 academic representatives from ASC from a spread of Colleges. PAG members are not permitted to consider proposals from their own College.

Programme Approval Process

This process requires amendment as currently proposals for new courses and changes to courses are approved at Faculty level, and proposals for new programmes and changes to

programmes are scrutinised at Faculty level and, if approved, forwarded to ASC for approval on behalf of Senate.

Faculty Boards of Studies and Higher Degrees Committees consider in detail proposals for new programmes and courses, and programme changes. Proposals for changes to existing courses, while requiring approval from the relevant convener, do not require full submission to the BoS or HDC. Faculty approval may be delegated to the BoS or HDC – by written agreement from the Dean.

It is proposed that current levels of Faculty authority for programme and course approval are transferred to the new Colleges.

The detail of College committee structures is yet to be agreed. It is proposed that College Boards of Studies should have responsibility for scrutinising programme and course proposals. It is suggested that each College should create one or more Boards of Studies (BoS), and that the College might choose to create a separate BoS for large degrees, such as the MA or BSc/MSci, and/or it might choose to create separate BoS for undergraduate and PGT programmes.

College BoS should therefore consider proposals for new programmes and courses, and programme changes. Conveners of BoS may also approve proposals for changes to existing courses. Colleges should also be able to delegate authority of College-level approval to their BoS, although all programme proposals agreed at College-level should require signing off by a senior member of the College e.g. College Dean for Learning and Teaching.

ASC will also review current arrangements for external consultation in the programme approval process after the publication of the final report on the Enhancement-Led Institutional Review of the University which took place in 2009.

Degree Regulations

The Senate Office will review current Calendar regulations and identify references to Faculty and Department which will require amendment in the new structure. Appropriate arrangements for deciding on issues of principle are currently under discussion with University Re-Structuring Project. Examples of such principles include: level of authority for decisions on student Progress; level of authority for the exercise of discretion for entry to Honours; level at which courses are grouped as 'recognised subjects' for the general degrees.