

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 19 February 2010

Report of the Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and the Free Church College Meeting of 19 January 2010

Ms Rona Miller, Senate Office

[FOR APPROVAL]

1. Remit and Membership 2009-10

The Convener advised the Joint Board that as a result of his new appointment of Dean of the Faculty Arts, Professor Murray Pittock would join the Joint Board in place of Professor Moignard. He explained that the University was due to undergo restructuring, and further consideration of the membership would be required once more detail on the new structure was available.

Members discussed the role of Professor Jasper on the Joint Board. While he was no longer Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies, it was agreed that his involvement to date had been invaluable, and that he should be invited to remain a member.

The Joint Board **recommends to** Academic Standards Committee the Remit and Membership of the Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and the Free Church College for 2009-10 (Appendix 1).

2. FCC New staff

The Joint Board considered the CVs for new staff, as detailed in Appendix 2:

- Rev. Alasdair I MacLeod, MA, DipTh, MDiv
- Rev. Neil MacMillan, MA
- Rev. Duncan Peters, DipTh, MTh

The Board **resolved to recommend** to the Academic Standards Committee that the new members of staff be recognised as teachers of the University.

3. Statement of Intent: Taught Master of Theology in Scottish Church History and Scottish Theology (Minute JBFCC/08/5.5)

Members discussed the Statement of Intent (Sol) for the Taught Master of Theology in Scottish Church History and Scottish Theology.

3.1 Rationale and Programme Structure

The postgraduate course was to provide Masters level study in this disciplinary area, and a potential foundation for research students. It was for a one year full-time or two or more years part-time programme, primarily for theology or history graduates. Around six students per annum would be expected to enrol.

While Masters students could attend lectures in the Free Church College 'Church History 2' course, covering elements of Scottish historical theology, the programme would be primarily through directed reading with an introductory study-skills course and three directed study courses, along with a dissertation.

Each of the three courses was to be valued at 40 credits (20 ECTS) and the Dissertation at 60 credits (30 ECTS). Each taught course was to be assessed by either a three hour examination or two 5,000 word essays.

Members noted that there would be the awards of Merit and Distinction as well as Pass. An exit route of a postgraduate Diploma would be offered to those students who successfully completed the three modules but did not manage to undertake or complete the dissertation.

3.2 *Staffing*

Members discussed staffing resources for the programme. Staff would need to have expertise in the area of Church History or Scottish Theology. Since there was a temporary gap in this cognate area in the FCC, members recognised that it would not be uncommon to appoint an appropriate member of part-time staff from outside the institution. Approval of staff as recognised teachers of the University would need to be undertaken in the normal way through the submission of the relevant CV to the Joint Board.

Since University of Glasgow staff currently fulfilled a role of second supervisor, it was agreed that it would be possible to identify someone from within the Faculty of Arts who could act as second supervisor, provided the cognate area was covered by FCC staff. The Free Church College had an External Examiner in Church History and/or Theology.

3.3 *Proposed revisions to the Statement of Intent*

Joint Board members welcomed the development, recognising a significant and flourishing interest in this area from around the world. However, they suggested the following adaptations to the Statement of Intent:

- Although it was a directed reading programme, there needed to be a pre-determined syllabus, with outline modules prepared for the validation event. Such an outline might specify the period of History to be studied.
- Members suggested that there could be two formative assessments of around 3,000 – 3,500 per course. The dissertation, of 15 – 20,000 words, would be a topic of the student's choice from an area within one of the three modules.

Members wholly welcomed the development of this Master of Theology as a fruitful evolution of the partnership between the institutions. The attached Statement of Intent was revised in line with these discussions (Appendix 3).

The Joint Board recommends the Statement of Intent for the Master of Theology in Scottish Church History and Scottish Theology to the Academic Standards Committee for **approval**.

[FOR INFORMATION]

4. TURNITIN

The Board was informed that staff from the Free Church College would be provided with Associate Staff status very soon, which would entitle them to access the University's TURNITIN software.

5. Report on Teaching Programmes

5.1 *Accreditation: Accreditation Service for International Colleges*

It was noted that the Free Church College had been accredited by the Accreditation Service for International Colleges and received commendations for:

- Learning and Teaching;
- Course Delivery;
- Management and Staff Resources;
- Premises; and
- Health and Safety.

5.2 *UKBA Licence*

It was noted that three students' visa applications had been delayed as a consequence of the Free Church College not receiving its UKBA Licence until August 2009. The students were therefore unable to meet the 7 September start date. However, it was hoped they would be able to join the College in September 2010.

Members were assured to hear that monitoring the attendance of College students was not expected to be difficult, since numbers were manageable and there would be staff/student contact on a daily basis.

5.3 *B Th Grade Profile*

Professor Macleod had been pleased to report the high grade profile of students on the BTh, with mainly As and Bs, no C grades and one fail. However, it was felt that the diversity of achievement reflected the language and cultural adaptations required by some international students. The College provided language and study skills classes for the benefit of international students, and individual tutor support.

On discussion, the Board agreed that providing more opportunities for students to do short tests and other forms of formative assessment during semesters may enable their adaptation. The Convener highlighted the availability of skills development courses from the University's Learning and Teaching Centre.

Dr Walton referred to possible opportunities within their Department for FCC students to join groups of Bachelor of Divinity candidates under joint supervision. Professor Macleod was keen to explore this further.

5.4 *External Examiners' Reports*

The Board discussed the comment made in Dr Mark Elliott's Report, querying the Scottish emphasis in Church History 2, which was promoted as 'Christianity in Scotland'. The Board did not see this as problematic. Scottish Literature, for example, was a subject which was of interest to international students. In addition, many international students of the Free Church College had their knowledge base from Scottish routes.

5.5 *Changes to BTh Programme*

It was noted that, as a result of Professor MacDonald retiring on 30 June, there would be a slight change to Practical Theology, discontinuing the 6 week Youth Ministry module and extending the Homiletics and Liturgy module from 6 to 12 weeks. Elective course-components World Religions and Christian Spirituality, which were offered as

alternatives to either Elementary Hebrew or Elementary Greek, would now be alternatives to Elementary Hebrew only as previously approved. This meant that Elementary Greek was now compulsory.

5.6 *Master of Theology Degree*

The M Theology programme was working well. Exam results were noted as very satisfactory.

5.7 *Student Feedback*

It was noted that there was a good response rate from students.

6. Matters remitted from the College Senate

There were no matters remitted from the College Senate to report.

7. Student Representative Report

Mr Stewart, the Student Representative, reported that the first semester had gone well and that new students had adapted well. There had been no issues or concerns raised by any of the students.

8. Publicity Materials

Professor Macleod provided copies of publications for review. He was pleased to report that additional publicity material was available on the Free Church College website for examination.

9. Memorandum of Agreement

Mrs McCluskey advised the Board that the new Memorandum of Agreement was awaiting the new fee structure for research students to be finalised and it would then be forwarded to the Free Church College for review. A new structure for the Annual Report was contained within the draft agreement, arising from feedback on the recent ELIR visits. She advised that one of the changes related to reporting on enhancement activity.

10. University Restructuring

The Convener reported that the University had decided to change the structure from nine faculties to four colleges. There would be 20 – 25 schools, from the existing 60 departments, with cross-cutting research institutes. The Faculty of Arts was the only faculty which would become a college. The School of English and Scottish Language and Literature (SESL) would be amalgamating with the Department of Theology and Religious Studies into a school.

The change was expected to enable interdisciplinarity. The structure would provide more effective administrative support to academics, with much administration delegated to the colleges, and larger budgets available.

The Convener advised that the changes should be in place for the start of academic session 2010-2011.

University of Glasgow and The Free Church of Scotland College

Title: Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and the Free Church of Scotland College

Remit:

1. To oversee the following programmes (taught or by research):
 - (a) Bachelor of Theology
 - (b) Master of Theology (by research)
2. To make recommendations to the Senate of the University and to the Senate of the College in respect of the validation of the above programmes.
3. To conduct periodic reviews of the above programmes, and make recommendations to the Senate of the University of Glasgow on the basis of their outcomes.
4. To make such recommendations as are appropriate to the Senate of the College.
5. To consider, for transmission to the Senate of the University of Glasgow for its approval, all nominations of external examiners to the University Court for the programmes listed in item 1 above.
6. To consider annually:
 - a) the recommendations of, and comments contained within, the reports of external examiners and the response of the College to the reports;
 - b) a report on the numbers and qualifications of students admitted to the validated programmes, and on the progress of students within the programmes;
 - c) the nomination of members of the College for recognition as teachers of the University;
 - d) the nomination of members of the Joint Appeals Committee.
7. To receive annual reports on, and keep under continuing review, the operation of the College's quality assurance procedures for all programmes overseen by the Joint Board.
8. To foster mutual understanding and co-operation and to encourage and review collaboration between the College and the University in areas of common interest.

Quorum:

The quorum of the Joint Board shall be four and shall comprise at least two representatives from each institution

**Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and
The Free Church of Scotland College
Membership 2009-2010**

University of Glasgow

Clerk of Senate (Convener)	Professor Graham Caie
Dean of Faculty of Arts (or nominee)	Professor Murray Pittock
Head of Department of Theology and Religious Studies (or nominee)	Dr Heather Walton
Faculty of Arts, Department of Theology and Religious Studies	Professor David Jasper

The Free Church 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 FCC SRC	Mr Alexander Stewart

In attendance

Director of Senate Office (or nominee)	Mrs Jackie McCluskey
Rona Miller, Senate Office	(Clerk)

January 2010

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND COLLEGE

NEW MEMBERS OF STAFF: CURRICULUM VITAE

Rev Alasdair I MacLeod MA (Aberdeen), DipTh (Free Church College), MDiv (Westminster Seminary, USA)

(Hermeneutics, Pastoral Care)

Date of Birth: 29 October 1952

Post: Minister, St Andrews Free Church, 2003-

Post-school MA in Religious Studies, Aberdeen University, 1974

Qualifications: Diploma in Theology, Free Church College, Edinburgh
1980

MDiv, Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia
1981

Career: Minister, Urray Free Church, Muir of Ord,
1981-1988

Professor of Apologetics and Practical Theology, Free Church College,
1988-1997

Minister, Leith Free Church, 1997-2003

Minister, St Andrews Free Church, 2003-

Other: Past Editor, *Scottish Bulletin of Evangelical Theology*

Past Member, College Board and Academic Board, Highland Theological
College, Dingwall

Lecturer, Part-time Course, Free Church College, 2003-2006

Course Organiser, Free Church Ministers' In-service, 2006-2009

Research Committee, Rutherford House, Edinburgh, 2008-

Honorary Chaplain, St Andrews University, 2008-

Academic Societies: Tyndale Fellowship for Biblical and Theological Research

Publications: Editorials, reviews and popular theological articles

Rev Neil MacMillan MA (Glasgow)

(Evangelism and Mission)

Date of Birth: 26 July 1967.

Post: Mission Development Officer, Free Church of Scotland Home Missions Board

Post School Education: University of Glasgow 1985-1989, MA Honours, (2:1) in Politics. Class Prize, Social & Political Philosophy, 1985-1986.

Free Church College, Edinburgh, 1990-1993, Diploma in Theology with Distinction.

Highland Theological College, Dingwall, 2000. Currently working on Dissertation for completion of *Doctor of Ministry* Degree.

Career: Administrative Assistant, Department of Social Security, Edinburgh, 1989-1990.

Minister, Kirkcaldy Free Church, 1993-2009

Mission Development Officer, Free Church of Scotland Home Missions Board, 2009-

Non Academic: Occasional Columnist - *Fife Free Press*.

Past Columnist – *Free Magazine*.

Joint Author – *Free Church of Scotland, Handbook for Elders & Deacons*.

Past Chaplain, Raith Rovers Football Club, Kirkcaldy.

Chaplain, Viewforth High School, Kirkcaldy.

Chaplain, Dunnikier Primary School, Kirkcaldy.

Trustee, Free Church of Scotland Board of Trustees.

Mission Development Officer, Free Church of Scotland, Home Missions Board.

Chair, Mission to the World & Free Church of Scotland, Joint Project Committee.

Advisor, Reformission Scotland, Church Planting Organisation.

Rev Duncan Peters DipTh (Free Church College), MTh (Edinburgh)

(World Religions)

<i>Date of Birth:</i>	4 th March 1966
<i>Post:</i>	Minister (Free Church of Scotland)
<i>Post-school education:</i>	Free Church College 1991 - 1994 Edinburgh University 1994 - 1995
<i>Career:</i>	Mission worker in South Asia with Operation Mobilisation 1986 - 1989 Resident supply ministry in Kingussie and Newtonmore Free Church 1995 - 1996 Visiting lecturer in New Testament and Systematic Theology at Samuel Bill Theological College, Abak, Nigeria 1996 Ministerial assistant at Buccleuch and Greyfriars Free Church 1997 - 1998 Minister, Asian Outreach, Govanhill Free Church 1998– Visiting lecturer in Systematic Theology and Islam at Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Dehra Dun, India 1999, 2006
<i>Non-academic:</i>	Tree-surgery labourer 1985 – 1986 Farm labourer 1989 Outdoor pursuits instructor 1989 Factory worker 1990 - 1991 English teacher in Romania 1991
<i>Publications:</i>	<i>In the Beginning – a Month of Daily Meditations from al-Taurat</i> (2007)

**FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND COLLEGE
PROPOSED TAUGHT MASTER OF THEOLOGY DEGREE IN SCOTTISH CHURCH
HISTORY AND SCOTTISH THEOLOGY
STATEMENT OF INTENT**

1. Summary

There is, at the moment, no existing dedicated taught MTh programme in Scottish Church History and Scottish Theology. There is evidence that there are potential postgraduate students with an interest in pursuing studies in these subjects but who are discouraged by the absence of an introductory course at postgraduate level. It is also the case that some students, especially from overseas, commence postgraduate research in Scottish Church History and Scottish Theology with little prior knowledge at degree level in the subject areas in which they are commencing work.

This degree proposal is for a one year full-time (2 or more years part-time) course, designed primarily for history or theology graduates. It is intended that the course would serve as an introduction for further research in Scottish Church History and/or Scottish Theology at doctoral level, as well as for those whose desire is to develop their academic interests without necessarily proceeding to doctoral level. It is in alignment with the University's Strategic Plan, especially as the Plan relates to Glasgow and beyond. We believe that the proposed degree programme has the potential to attract new research students from abroad who will go on to PhD study, in that it will provide an introduction to research skills and the subject areas not otherwise available.

We believe that the College staff and resources could accommodate an average of 6 students per year on the course over the two subject areas.

2. Criteria for Admission

Applicants for admission would normally be expected to hold a good honours degree in History or Theology/Divinity of a recognized university or college/seminary or the Bachelor of Theology degree of the Free Church College at distinction or merit level. In exceptional circumstances, applicants without this qualification might be admitted subject to having an alternative qualification, at an approved level of achievement, appropriate to their proposed field of study, and subject to any conditions laid down by the College Senate with the agreement of the Higher Degrees Committee of the University of Glasgow.

Applicants would be advised to contact the College for discussion with the Director of Postgraduate Studies to arrange discussion about supervision.

3. Duration of Study

The minimum period of study for the award of a Masters degree would be 12 calendar months. The maximum period for full-time study would be 24 calendar months of registered study. The maximum period within which all students must complete the programme is five years from the date of initial registration.

4. Course Syllabus

This is a directed reading course. There would be three main modules: (1) The Scottish Reformation, (2) the Second Book of Discipline to the Marrow Controversy (1578-1723), and (3) Thomas Boston to the Union of 1929 (1718-1929).

The syllabus for each of the taught modules would be designed by the supervisor in consultation with the student and would involve an in-depth study of an area within the field of study. The module would proceed on a 'guided study' basis, in which students would have around four meetings per module with their supervisor.

It would also be open for students to attend lectures in the existing Free Church College Church History 2 course which would provide a foundation for those students with no previous, extended knowledge of the subject areas. This course also embodies elements in Scottish historical theology. It is a fully validated course at Level 2.

In the first semester of a full-time programme, students would normally take a study-skills module (which would introduce them to the world of post-graduate study in the relevant areas) plus the first of their main modules. The other two taught modules would be taken in the second semester.

At the completion of the taught modules, the student would then write a 15-20,000 word dissertation, on a topic of the student's own choice from within the area of one of the main modules, under the guidance of the supervisor. Full-time students would be expected to submit this dissertation by 15 September of the year after the commencement of his study. Part-time students would submit up to five years from enrolment.

Full-time students would be expected to attend the programme of post-graduate seminars to be organized each semester. Part-time students would be expected to attend seminars where relevant to the subject of their own work.

5. Educational Aims of Programme

On completion of studies each student on the MTh programme would be expected to have

1. developed an overall knowledge at an advanced level of Scottish Church History and Scottish Theology since the Reformation, together with a familiarity with traditional and contemporary understandings of Scottish Church History and Theology, and with recent scholarship;
2. developed a specialized knowledge of an area of Scottish Church History or Scottish Theology chosen under the guidance of a supervisor;
3. demonstrated evidence of wide and independent reading.

6. Learning Objectives of Programme

On completion of studies each student on the MTh programme would be expected to have

1. developed advanced skills in study, research, and original, independent thought in engagement with primary and secondary sources;
2. developed skills in extended research and argumentation by means of a substantial dissertation, showing originality of thought and mastery of bibliographical resources and relevant online data;
3. developed a range of generic and transferable skills, such as good communication skills, analytic ability, logical argument, summarizing skills, problem solving skills, and the ability to work well with others; and
4. to have laid the academic foundations for pursuing research at PhD level should students so desire.

7. Programme Components

In order to qualify for an award, a candidate must complete minimum credits as follows:

- 7.1 For the award of a Masters degree: 180 credits, which includes both the three taught modules, and a 60 credit (or more) dissertation or other substantial independent work.
- 7.2 For the award of a Postgraduate Diploma: 120 credits of taught courses.
- 7.3 For the award of a Postgraduate Certificate: 60 credits of taught courses.
- 7.4 The taught courses will normally be undertaken during the academic session (September-June).

8. Assessment

The three main modules would be assessed (at the choice of the student and supervisor) either by a three hour examination or by the submission of prepared course work (two 3,000 word essays and one 1,000 word piece of formative assessment per module). In addition to internal assessment, examination papers, submitted course work, and the dissertation would be assessed by the College's External Examiners in Church History and Theology who are appointed by the University on the recommendation of the College Senate.

9. Candidates for a taught Master of Theology Degree: Progress

- 9.1 A candidate will be permitted to progress to preparation of the dissertation, or other substantial independent work required by the degree, only if he or she has obtained an average of Grade C in the taught courses described in Regulation 4 with no more than 25% of the credits for these courses at grade E and none below grade E.
- 9.2 A candidate who has commenced study midway through an academic session will be permitted to progress to preparation of the dissertation, or other substantial independent work, only if he or she has obtained an average of Grade C in the taught courses assessed by the end of the session in which study was commenced with no more than 25% of the credits for these courses at grade E and none below grade E.

10. Reassessment of the Dissertation

Reassessment of the dissertation or other substantial independent work will be permitted on one occasion only, under such conditions as the Examiners may prescribe in each particular case. Normally, resubmission should be no later than 3 months after the date of the meeting of the Board of Examiners.

11. Requirements for the Award of a Master's Degree and Rules for Award of Distinction and Merit.

The degree would be awarded simpliciter or with Distinction or Merit in accordance with the following regulations:

- 11.1 A candidate will be eligible for the award of the degree on obtaining an average of Grade C or better (with no more than 25% of credit at Grade E and none below grade E) in all the taught courses within the programme, as specified in Regulation 4, and obtaining a grade D or better in the dissertation or other substantial independent work.
- 11.2 A candidate who has achieved Grade C or better in all components and Grade B or above in at least one third of the total credits of the award at the first sitting will be eligible for the award with Merit.

11.3 A candidate who has achieved Grade B or better in all components and Grade A in at least one third of the total credits of the award at the first sitting will be eligible for the award with Distinction.

12. Requirements for the Award of a Postgraduate Diploma or Postgraduate Certificate and rules for award of distinction and merit

12.1 The requirement for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma is an average of Grade D in 120 credits, with not less than 80 of these credits at Grade D or above.

12.2 The requirement for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate is an average of Grade D in 60 credits, with not less than 40 of these credits at Grade D or above.

12.3 These awards may be granted with Merit or Distinction according to the criteria specified in 11 above.

Professor John R. McIntosh
Director of Postgraduate Studies
February 2010