

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – 22 November 2010

**Departmental Programmes of Teaching, Learning and Assessment:
Update on Responses to Recommendations arising from the Review
of Economics held on 24 January 2008**

Ms Fiona Dick, Senate Office

At its meeting on 28 May 2010, Academic Standards Committee received an update on various responses to recommendations made at the review of Economics in January 2008. The responses were considered to demonstrate satisfactory progress in all but two cases.

Further updates to responses have been provided as follows:

Recommendation 5:

The Dean reported that the Faculty had recently identified the need for an Equivalence Committee and the Review Panel **recommends** that the Department avail itself of the advice of this Committee as soon as it is in operation to enable the Department to include marks from study abroad in the students' final grade. This would emphasise the value the University places on the educational value of the study abroad experience and the importance of maintaining academic work while away from this University. [paragraph 5.2]

For the attention of: **The Head of Department**
with the support of: **The Dean of the Faculty**

Response:

ASC previously received responses to this recommendation from the Head of Department and the Dean of the Faculty at its meetings in May 2009 and May 2010. These responses indicated that work towards consistent faculty practice in the conversion of marks from study abroad was in progress. In May 2010, the Dean of the Faculty reported that further work had been postponed following the decision that the University Learning and Teaching Committee would form a working group to formulate University wide policy on the issue. ASC previously agreed that the Dean of Learning & Teaching in the College of Social Sciences should provide an update on the College's policy for the conversion of study abroad grades after the University Working Group had concluded its business. The first meeting of the working group was scheduled for early November 2010.

Recommendation 11:

The Review Panel **recommends** that the Department examines its postgraduate taught programme structures with a view to eliminating possible duplication of content and ensuring that, in reality, students experience the flexibility of choice set out in recruitment and programme information documents. [paragraph 4.4.1]

For the attention of: **The Head of Department**

Response:

The Postgraduate Teaching Committee has set up two working groups to review the entire PGT provision in both Development and Finance. The working groups have carried out a detailed census of the content of all courses and have made some proposals on how courses and degree programmes could be restructured in the light of its findings. This work will continue during the forthcoming session.

Updated response – May 2010

The department has identified that there is scope for reducing the current PGT programme offering in order to eliminate some duplication but has decided to delay any action due to the current restructuring process of the university. We consider that it would be unwise to move on this area without knowing the strategic direction that the new Business School plans to give to its PGT programmes. We plan to consult with the new Head of School and School PGT Convenor on this issue once they are named.

Updated response, Dean for Graduate Studies – November 2010

Recommendation 11 of the DPTLA Review of Economics was that the Department examined its PGT programmes with a view to eliminating any duplication of provision and ensuring that the programmes demonstrated genuine differentiation of content.

In May 2010 the Department responded to Recommendation 11, suggesting that it made sense to delay any restructuring of PGT provision until after the wider University restructuring of August 2010. [This was agreed by ASC]

Since August, the subject has experienced significant growth in PGT numbers, while at the same time strategic responsibility for PGT programmes has shifted to the College. Both of these circumstances require a broader audit and analysis of PGT provision, which will be conducted over the next year. Discussions around college level PGT strategy, which will have a direct bearing on this subject area, have already started, with the full involvement of the Business School.

In summary, the recommendation will be addressed through College structures over the next session.