University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee: Friday 19 November 2010

Updated Responses to the Recommendations Arising from the Review of English Language held on 20 February 2009

Ms Fiona Dick, Senate Office

At the meeting held on 28 May 2010, Academic Standards Committee received the update on progress from the above review held in February 2009 and noted that while the Panel Convener was satisfied that the recommendations had, as far as possible, been given full and appropriate consideration, he recommended that a further update on recommendations 2 and 4 should be provided to ASC in six months time – November 2010. ASC agreed that updates should be provided on progress with these issues which related to student take up of study abroad opportunities (recommendation 2) and technical support provided by HATII (recommendation 4).

Below are the updated responses:

Recommendation 2:

The Review Panel recommends that the Department keeps under review student take-up of opportunities for study abroad and that, if students prove unwilling or unable to subscribe to the proposed longer absence from Glasgow, the subject be raised for discussion in SESLL and at Faculty where other possible remedies might be sought. *[paragraph 4.5]*

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

Response:

We are continuing to review procedures, and have raised the issue with colleagues. A few students have taken up the opportunities on offer, although of course the possibilities at undergraduate level remain limited for our subject. We would be interested in hearing about "other possible remedies", since very few practical suggestions have been made.

Updated Response – November 2010

In the current session (2010-11), in the wake of restructuring, ERASMUS exchanges remain co-ordinated at Subject level, the most natural point of administration. School level coordination would be inappropriate, given that the Subject areas have individual relationships with cognate units with differing disciplinary specialisations in a range of other European universities. Following the DPTLA report, English Language has now adapted its procedures to allow longer-term exchanges than were encouraged before session 2010-11. Practices across the School are, however, monitored by the new School Teaching and Learning Committee. If there are general strategic issues arising about take-up of exchange opportunities, the School L&T committee is the place for discussion. Specific issues about partnerships and duration remain coordinated at Subject level.

Note for information:

Increasing student mobility is a strategic priority for the University over the next Strategic Plan period. Education Policy and Strategy Committee, at its meeting on 3 November 2010, received an outline project plan on International Student Mobility intended to help drive an increase in student mobility through establishing a governance model and promoting existing good practice. A detailed project plan will be developed for the outline and a project initiated thereafter.

Recommendation 4:

With respect to the problem of technical support in the STELLA Laboratory, the Review Panel recommends that the solution proposed by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts that this might be provided by HATII should be explored and, if not viable, that an alternative be sought. *[paragraph 5.9.2]*

For the attention of: **Dean of the Faculty of Arts**

Response - Dean:

I understand that all campus-wide computers now have the appropriate fonts for phonetics and old English built in to the software.

Response – Department:

This issue has now been resolved to our satisfaction. However, the location of HATII in a distinct School under the restructuring, rather than as a cross-College facility, is a source of concern for us, since we are unclear about the arrangements for cross-School provision under the new dispensation.

Updated Response – November 2010

In the current session (2010-11), we communicated to IT Services at the beginning of the academic session requests for fonts with special characters to be loaded onto workstations in lecture theatres across campus. This will henceforth be standard practice, given that the function of HATII has changed as a consequence of restructuring. We understand that changes to fonts available on workstations in rooms that are centrally booked can only be done by IT Services during vacations, since the workstation configurations should be kept the same throughout each semester. This means that *ad hoc* changes to fonts cannot be completed during the semester if (as sometimes happens) we find that a particular phonetics or Old English font is not yet loaded onto the workstation in Gloag or Boyd Orr. In such cases, an interim solution is for staff using special fonts to take a departmental laptop to the lecture and display the special fonts using the laptop rather than the workstation.