

**University of Glasgow**

**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 18 February 2011**

**Matters Arising: Periodic Subject Review (formerly DPTLA Review):  
Update Reports – Scottish Literature (ASC/2010/22.3.5)**

**Ms Fiona Dick, Senate Office**

At its meeting on 22 November 2011, Academic Standards Committee received an update on responses to six recommendations which had arisen from the review of Scottish Literature in February 2009. It was noted that some progress had been made with Recommendations 1, 2 and 12 which related to: review of Intended Learning Outcomes; increasing the variety of assessment methods; encouragement of outgoing ERASMUS students. It was noted that in relation to Recommendation 2, further advice should be sought from the Learning & Teaching Centre, rather than the Senate Office.

Attention was drawn to the updated response to Recommendation 5 which had sought a review of the compulsory status of the English Language 1 course, as a prerequisite to Single Honours Scottish Literature. Members noted that there was a clear indication in the response that English Language 1 should remain compulsory, however it was agreed that a fuller rationale for this decision should be sought from the Head of School.

Updated responses, with previous response are detailed below:

***Recommendation 2***

The Panel felt strongly that additional variety in assessment methods could be introduced, and **recommends** that the Department give further consideration to ways in which the range of assessment methods could be varied. [*Paragraph 3.3.1*]

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

***Response:***

The Department will continue to build in variety of assessment to programmes. However, in consultation with students following the DPTLA report, students in Scottish Literature report their view that the Department currently provides a very satisfactory range of assessment. The Department will maintain variety of assessment as an issue at the top of its teaching agenda.

***Additional Response November 2010***

Further feedback, taken from Staff-Student Liaison Committee meetings and discussion among staff leads the subject area to believe it has a sufficient variety in its range of assessment. During 2010-11 the subject area is revisiting its Honours Programme provision including discussion of a potential group project assessment. The subject area is however, happy to be further advised by the Senate Office in additional varieties which might be added to our portfolio.

***Updated Response : Head of School - January 2011***

A demonstrable variety of assessment methods have been introduced since reform of Scottish Literature's Honours curriculum in 2002-3. This has been extended from Levels 1 and 2 into Honours, which is currently undergoing further development. The variety currently on offer

appears to be satisfactory to students, whose opinion has been canvassed at Staff-Student Liaison Committee meetings.

***Recommendation 5***

The Panel **recommends** that the Department again give consideration to the requirement for students to complete the English Language 1 course, with a view to either removing its compulsory status, or to offering a clear rationale for its compulsory inclusion in the programme. [Paragraph 3.4.4]

For the attention of: **The Head of Department; The Dean of Faculty**

***Response – Head of Department:***

Having consulted students, one another and also colleagues in English Language, the Department strongly believes that English Language 1 is an appropriate prerequisite to Single Honours Scottish Literature. However, the Department will seek to find ways to strengthen its articulation of the linkage between English Language 1 and the Scottish Literature Honours programme.

***Response – Dean:***

The requirement for study of English Language 1 is a matter for the departments concerned and the L & T Committee of the School of Critical Studies from 1 August 2010. It would not, in my view, be appropriate for the Faculty/College to take the lead on curriculum change in the programmes of individual subjects unless there was a clear and present risk to the student experience. Any changes agreed will go through the relevant Faculty/College committees in the normal way.

***Additional Response November 2010***

Staff in the subject area of Scottish Literature believe that English Language 1 is a highly desirable component towards the Single Honours degree in Scottish Literature. Single Honours Scottish Literature students are required to take 2 programme courses in tandem with English Language and English Language 1 is an essential foundation towards this later element of the Single Honours curriculum.

***Updated Response: Head of School – January 2011***

Scottish Literature remains dedicated to maintaining the compulsory status of English Language 1 as a prerequisite for Scottish Literature Single Honours students. Semantics, grammar, and linguistic analysis remain essential training for students of Scottish literature. As Head of School I am concerned to increase harmonization between discrete subject areas within the School and will be looking for ways to further develop cross-subject synergies of this nature.