

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee - Friday 18 November 2011

**Departmental Programmes of Teaching, Learning and Assessment
(now known as Periodic Subject Review): Update on Responses to
the Recommendations Arising from the Review of Urban Studies held
on 15 and 16 March 2010**

Mrs Catherine Omand, Senate Office

Recommendation 1

The Review Panel **recommends** that the Department develop an explicit Learning and Teaching Strategy. This should include the articulation of a subject-specific philosophy for education in Urban Studies and provide a framework and timetable for the on-going development of the Department's work.

The Strategy should, among other things:

- Inform the review of Aims and Intended Learning Outcomes of programmes and courses
- Formalise departmental QA procedures, with an emphasis on feedback to students, external examiners and validating bodies, and on effective communication between all departmental staff on QA issues
- Set out a systematic approach to the development and dissemination of good practice in Learning and Teaching

[paragraphs 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 5.10]

*For the attention of: **Head of Subject**
and Head of School of Social & Political Sciences*

Joint Response:

We have made some progress in this area but do not yet have a full strategy in place for Urban Studies programmes. The comments above about the integration of Urban Studies within SPS are germane here.

For UG programmes, the SPS Learning & Teaching Committee is leading the development of developing a long-term strategy for the provision of the MA (SocSci). A working paper has been produced by the Committee and we are expecting a new model for the MA Soc Sci to be put forward for approval during 2011-12. Some of this thinking has shaped our strategy for the UG Public Policy programme (see recommendation 4 below).

At PG level, we have been running a review group which has now met three times focussing initially on Real Estate Planning and Regeneration, our biggest programme. The group is working through the academic rationale for the programme and how it interfaces with other parts of our provision. We expect that this review will lead to some major revisions to REPR. As part

of this process we will be going on to look at QA against the background of College learning and Teaching Plans and School QA procedures.

Updated Response October 2011

We would reiterate for UGT that the School of Social & Political Sciences is undertaking a review of the MA (SocSci), of which our provision is a part. It is not appropriate for us to develop an independent Learning and Teaching strategy, especially while a revised programme is under development.

For PGT, we regret we have not made much progress. There is an extant Learning and Teaching strategy for part of our Postgraduate provision (the Real Estate Planning and Regeneration Programme), but it does not fully meet the concerns and has not been developed against the background of the University's fairly recent Learning & Teaching strategy. The Head of Subject has now sought advice from the Teaching and Learning Centre about best practice in this area and will endeavour to find space to develop a strategy.

Recommendation 9

The Panel **recommends** that the Department investigate all possibilities for overseas study by its students, including pre-Honours and for periods of less than a year.

[paragraph 3.5.7]

*For the attention of: **Head of Subject**
and **Head of School of Social & Political Sciences***

Joint Response:

This is something we have looked at. At UG level there is very limited demand: *opportunities for study abroad for most of our students must be in English and affordable. Where opportunities are advised by the university, we ensure these are well communicated to students.*

Updated Response October 2011

Perhaps our initial response was not so clear. The Director of the Undergraduate Programme actively seeks out opportunities for students to study abroad and directs students attention to these. However, there are some barriers to take up, which we sketched before.