

**University of Glasgow****Academic Standards Committee - Friday 16 November 2012****Periodic Subject Review: Updated Responses to Recommendations Arising from the Report of the Review of Central and East European Studies****Mrs Catherine H Omand, Clerk to the Review Panel**

At its meeting on 25 May 2012 ASC received an update on the progress CEES had made in the last 12 months in response to the recommendations arising from its Review held during 2010-11. ASC concurred with the Panel Convener's view that as far as possible the recommendations had been given full and appropriate consideration. It was agreed that updates on further progress should be provided in November 2012 on recommendations 1, 2 and 4.

**Recommendation 1**

The Review Panel recommends that the Subject reviews the content of CEES Level 2 Course 2B to ensure that it appropriately enhances students' learning opportunities, while maintaining its coverage of the key issues. (*Paragraph 3.4.4*)

For the attention of: **Head of Subject****Response:**

The recommended review of CEES Level 2 provision will be conducted during June-October 2012 as part of pending School-wide discussions on curriculum reform and the introduction of composite pre-Honours courses taught across subjects. In this regard, the current thinking is that from 2013-14, CEES will offer a composite Level 2A course in conjunction with Politics and its own stand-alone 2B course. This will entail working with colleagues in Politics to develop new curricula and to determine which elements of the existing CEES Level 2 courses are to be incorporated into the new options. As part of this process, due attention will be given to the multidisciplinary nature of CEES as a subject area and to the need to ensure that all of the key issues and academic perspectives (political, economic, social and cultural) are covered as part of an area studies syllabus.

**Updated response: Head of School November 2012**

The School's Learning and Teaching Committee continues to develop means of greater integration of Honours courses, including CEES options, across School Honours programmes so we anticipate further progress for the 2013/2014 academic year from current discussions. This approach will be considered as new honours courses in CEES are developed in the light of staffing changes.

More broadly, there has been an increase this year in total enrolments for CEES Level 1A and CEES Level 1 B; this is encouraging. One contributing factor may have been the change made last year to make CEES Level 1A cognate with Politics Level 1.

### **Updated response: Head of Subject November 2012**

The precise form of pre-honours provision is currently being reviewed within the School of Social and Political Science. In the interim, partly taking advantage of staffing changes, the course Level 2A was substantially revised, expanding the areas covered to include Ukraine and Georgia, states of concern to the EU. The course retains its multi-disciplinary format.

### **Recommendation 2**

The Review Panel recommends that CEES monitors the implication of the change to Honours entry to a 'B' pass in 40-credits at Level 1 and modify Level 1 courses to accommodate students wishing to enter Honours from Level 1, if deemed necessary. (*Paragraph 3.6.1*)

For the attention of: **Head of Subject**

#### ***Response:***

Eligibility on the basis of second year study at Level 1 will become operational for those students seeking entry to Honours in 2012-13. Any applications on this basis will be carefully scrutinised and the performance of students monitored closely during next session. Due consideration will be given to this recommendation during June-October 2012, when CEES will discuss the development of a composite Level 1B course with colleagues in Economic and Social History and its own remodelled Level 1A option. It may be that greater standardisation of progression requirements across subjects will be introduced as part of the School-wide discussion on reform of pre-Honours.

### **Updated response: November 2012**

There were 17 students taking Level 1 as a 3<sup>rd</sup> subject who met the aggregate B entry requirement to CEES honours. One has taken up a place this year.

Here again, the precise form of pre-honours provision remains under consideration by the School, so part of the initial CEES response is, as it were, on hold. CEES has, as requested, monitored the consequences of those entering Honours with a B pass at Level 1. With the division of Level 1 into Level 1A and 1B, it has been lenient with those attaining a B in just one of the courses, i.e. just 20 credits. The change has certainly been beneficial for recruitment.

### **Recommendation 4**

The Review Panel recommends engaging students with recruitment processes such as open days, school visits and with induction programmes. (*Paragraph 3.5.3*)

For the attention of: **Head of Subject**

#### ***Response:***

CEES has yet to discuss introducing a school visits programme (though individual members of staff have given talks in Scottish and English schools during the past year), mainly due to additional pressures on staff time arising from organisation of the new Erasmus Mundus International Masters consortium, submission of the successful bid for continued funding of CRCEES, the submission of a major EU FP7 funding application in January 2012 and a raft of other research, PGR training and knowledge exchange projects that have been ongoing. However, current students have been active in advertising PGT degrees through the provision of web-based testimonials, while members of the current Honours cohort have also participated in the intending Honours meeting that was held in February for current Level 2 (and year 2, level 1) students. CEES students have also contributed actively to the CEES Facebook page

established a year ago, which has already attracted over 200 followers. This page is routinely brought to the attention of prospective UG and PGT applicants, many of whom have signed up. During the current session a dedicated Facebook page has also been established to advertise the new Erasmus Mundus International Masters degree.

**Updated response: November 2012**

Honours students were invited to take part in Open Day events in September. Three helped out on the CEES stand and I understand were very enthusiastic and helpful. I'm sure they will take part in other Open Day events.

In addition to the initial response, it should be noted that: two CEES colleagues were involved during the spring term of 2012 in a project with two local schools, aimed at gauging understandings of Central and Eastern Europe among the school population; that current students are now involved in GU Open Days.