

## University of Glasgow

## Academic Standards Committee – Thursday 21 May 2015

Report from the Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and  
Christie's Education held on 20 February 2015

Ryan Reed, Academic Collaborations Office

## For Approval

## 1. Membership, 2015-16

The Board had received a paper outlining the current membership and remit. The Joint Board **resolved to recommend** the membership to the Academic Standards Committee (ASC).

The membership is attached to this report at Appendix 1.

## For Noting

## 2. Remit and Membership 2014-15

The Convener explained that Prof. Elizabeth Moignard had demitted her position on the Joint Board as the nominee of the Head of the College of Arts. The Board wished to note their thanks to Prof. Moignard for her support and service to the Board.

One of the recommendations of the partnership review that recently took place at the University of Glasgow was that a member of the University's Senior Management Group should take responsibility for the strategic development of the partnership between Christie's Education (CEDU) and the University of Glasgow (UoG). Prof. Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh, the recently appointed Head of the College of Arts was identified as the appropriate individual. Prof. Ó Maolalaigh, takes over the role of Head of College from Prof. Murray Pittock. Prof. Nick Pearce would now sit on the Board as the nominee of Prof. Ó Maolalaigh. The Joint Board of Management continues to maintain academic oversight.

Ongoing communication between the Board and the College would be key to ensuring that the partnership developed in the most beneficial way, and also continued to maintain high academic standards. For these reasons, *in terms of the direction and development of the wider partnership* between UoG and CEDU, Prof. Pearce would be the key point of strategic contact for CEDU, the Joint Board and the Academic Collaborations Office.

Dr Sally Rush would now sit on the Board as the nominee of Prof. Dimitris Eleftheriotis, Head of the School of Culture and Creative Arts. Sally was the Junior Honours Convenor within the School and was therefore closely involved in the MA (Hons) in History of Art and Art-World Practice. Sally would be the point of academic contact between Christie's Education, the Joint Board and the Academic Collaborations Office.

Ms Lauren Crais and Ms Hannah Marks would be acting as student representatives to the Board on behalf of CEDU students. Ms Crais was a general representative of all CEDU students, and Ms. Marks was a second year Undergraduate student who would represent those students on the MA in History of Art and Art-World Practice. The Convenor welcomed both of the student representatives and thanked them for their willingness to represent their fellow students on the Board.

### **3. Matters Arising**

#### **3.1 Student progression and achievement (Minute 4.2)**

An item had been added to the agenda under reserved business (13.1) to allow for discussion of this issue, as requested. The Convener informed the Board that the student representatives would be asked to leave at this point for reasons of confidentiality.

#### **3.2 Name changes to MLitt and PG Diploma programmes (Minute 6)**

These changes have been implemented and the programme titles have taken effect at Glasgow. These are now being recruited to for AY 2015/16.

There are some issues having these changes reflected on the UoG Website and this is being resolved. Mr Reed to follow up with the School of Culture and Creative Arts.

### **4. Annual Report on MLitt, Graduate Diploma and MA (Hons) Programmes**

The Convener thanked CEDU staff and Prof. Michael for preparing a comprehensive report and asked Professor Michael to take the Board through the key points.

Overall a very positive, if busy, picture was reported. Good cohesive inputs from all parts of CEDU were noted and the report gave the impression of an organisation going through a period of productive change. Amongst other areas of work, engagement with the QAA had clearly required a great deal of effort.

There were higher numbers of students overall, but perhaps a slight shift in the programmes that students were being recruited to. The MSc in Art, Law and Business was making up for a slight drop in PGT numbers on other programmes. There was a slight fall in the number of applications for the MA (Hons) programme

High numbers of Distinctions on the MLitt and MSc programmes was a signifier of the excellent support and learning and teaching students were receiving. This was identified in external examiners reports. This was to be commended.

There were a number of issues in Ms Guernaoui's report (Business and Student Services Manager, Appendix 2) which would be picked up separately at other points in the Agenda.

### **5. Student Report**

The Convener invited a report on behalf of CEDU students. Ms Crais and Ms Marks provided a positive report to the Board and it was noted that there were no immediate concerns which required Board action.

### **6. Immigration and Visas**

Ms. Guernaoui provided the Board a comprehensive update on the situation with the Home Office and the progress made in terms of the CEDU application for a sponsor licence. Ms Guernaoui and Mr Reed had been in very regular contact about this issue.

The agreed plan was that CEDU would secure a licence for the September 2015 intake and this would allow them to sponsor students from academic year 2015-16. UoG had advised that it would no longer be able to provide this service, but that it would provide all assistance it could in support of the CEDU application.

There had been a lack of clarity with regard the required level of QAA review. The QAA had very recently advised that a review for Specific Course Designation was insufficient for application for a Tier IV licence and that all providers would, in future, require a HER+ review. CEDU had written to the Home Office to seek clarification of this issue. As yet, there had been no response.

The Convener clarified that the UoG position was unchanged at this point and that it would no longer be able to provide sponsorship to CEDU students. Ms Hay emphasised the potential impact of this situation on CEDU, and asked that UoG provide an assurance that it would, should CEDU be unable to secure a licence in the required timescale, extend the transitional arrangement already in place to sponsor CEDU students. The Convener would liaise with the relevant colleagues at UoG to confirm the University's position and would advise Ms. Hay as soon as possible.

The Convener reiterated that CEDU had the University's full support in the matter and that it would do whatever it could to support CEDU in resolving this situation.

## **7. SAAS funding**

It was confirmed by the Convener, as per his recent letter, that new CEDU students on the MA (Hons) programme would no longer be entitled to SAAS funding whilst studying at CEDU in London. However, it was believed that they would still be entitled to receive this support for tuition fees when they attended UoG in years three and four of the programme, subject to the eligibility requirements as set out by SAAS. Mr Reed would enquire with SAAS whether residence in London for two years prior to study at Glasgow would impact on the eligibility of EU students to receive SAAS tuition fee support when at UoG.

For the avoidance of doubt, UoG would continue this arrangement for those who have received SAAS support this year and who are moving to Yr 2.

## **8. Student Loans Company/Designation Update**

It was confirmed that all CEDU students who were previously on the UoG SLC system had now been transferred to the CEDU system. CEDU was now able to administer student loans in its own right and UoG would no longer provide this facility. Student loans would be administered in line with BIS, HEFCE and SLC policies and guidance as applies to private education providers, rather than as applies to a public HEI.

## **9. External Examiners' Reports**

The Board considered reports for Session 2013-14 from Dr P R Dent, Dr S Pierson, Dr T Flessas and Dr A Stephenson. The Board noted the positive comments throughout the reports, particularly in regard to programme design, assessment and feedback. It was very clear from the comments that members of staff were aware of their student's abilities and needs. The Convener congratulated CEDU on the excellent feedback from the External Examiners.

## **10. Publications/Publicity Materials**

As a standing item, a reminder was issued that all new publicity material referring to the relationship between CEDU and the UoG should be approved by ACO. This is to comply with QAA guidelines.

## **11. Any Other Business**

### *11.1 Partnership development group*

Prof. Pearce suggested that a strategic/partnership development group be established to consider the outcomes of the recent partnership review undertaken at UoG and any other developments which might enhance the relationship and partnership between CEDU and UoG.

The Board agreed that a group to consider the needs of the partnership, which could provide guidance and information to the Board on these issues, was an excellent proposition. The Board agreed that this should be established as a standalone group

rather than as a sub-group to the Board, as it was important to note that there was not a formal reporting requirement to the Joint Board - responsibility for the strategic development rested with the Head of the College of Arts. The aims of this group would be further refined and an initial date for a meeting established by Prof. Pearce and Ms Hay.

#### 11.2 Memorandum of Agreement renewal

Mr. Reed stated that the aim was to have a draft agreement, except for the pricing elements, with CEDU for the end of March. The UoG Finance Department was assisting with pricing and would be looking at this in April. This further information would be passed on as soon as possible. Mrs McCluskey was leading on this work.

The revalidation of CEDU programmes was also discussed and it was noted that this would take place in the next academic year, once the new memorandum had been agreed. The ACO would be responsible for organising this.

#### 11.3 *Timing of Joint Board meetings and reporting*

There was a suggestion that the timing of the Joint Board meetings and the nature of reports which the Board receives should be amended. The timing and purpose of the two Board meetings in each year was discussed and it was decided to change the timing and purpose so that in each Academic Year there remained the requisite two meetings, but that these more effectively aligned with the remit and work of the Board. There should be:

- A Joint Board in October. The Board would review the previous year, receive the annual report, and set an action plan for the year ahead. This would allow for information collated for the QAA and other external agencies to be used at the Joint Board and would reduce the time between the end of the academic year and the creation of the corresponding annual report.
- A distribution of external examiners reports in February. This would allow for electronic sharing of external examiners reports and any issues or concerns would be picked up on an ad-hoc basis.
- A Joint Board in April. The Board would review progress against the agreed action plan and identify any follow-up required ahead of the next Academic Year. A much more streamlined report was suggested, taking the form of an actions update/progress report, referencing the agreed plan for the year.

The Board **approved** these suggested changes and noted that UoG and CEDU would need to agree any particular dates to take account of pressures on the institutions at those times of year. Mr Reed and Ms Guernaoui would discuss dates with colleagues and arrange the first October meeting in due course.

## 12. **Reserved Business**

### 12.1 *Student progression and achievement*

The Board discussed student performance and in particular how students could be supported in their transition between CEDU and UoG as part of the MA (Hons) programme. It was agreed that information regarding students should be supplied to UoG where this could provide enhanced support and that CEDU should, with the support of UoG, prepare a pack of information for students who will be making the transition to UoG.

## 13. **Date of Next Meeting**

TBA. It was agreed that there should not be a meeting in the summer, and that the next meeting should be scheduled for October.

## Appendix 1

### Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and Christie's Education, London.

#### Membership - Session 2014-15

#### Composition

##### ***University of Glasgow***

Clerk of Senate or nominee	Professor J Briggs
Head of College of Arts (or nominee)	Professor N Pearce
Head of School of Culture and Creative Arts (or nominee)	Dr Sally Rush
SRC Representative	Ms Katherine Raison
School of Culture and Creative Arts Administrator	TBC
Head of Academic Collaborations Office (or nominee)	Mrs J McCluskey

##### ***Christie's Education***

Academic Director, All Programmes	Professor M A Michael
Programme Director, MLitt Option A and MA (Hons) Year 1	Dr R Plant
Programme Director, MLitt Option B and MA (Hons) Year 2	Mr A Spira
Programme Director, MLitt Option C	Ms L Perrotte
Programme Director, MLitt Option D	Ms N Cura
Programme Director, MSc, Art, Law and Business	Mr G Gasparini
Managing Director ( <i>ex officio</i> member)	Ms Jane Hay
Business and Student Services Manager ( <i>ex officio</i> member)	Mrs Fiona Guernaoui
Learning Resources Manager ( <i>ex officio</i> member)	Ms N Held
Student representative	Ms Lauren Crais
Student representative	Ms Hannah Marks

##### ***In Attendance***

Administrator, Academic Collaborations Office (Clerk)	Mr Ryan Reed
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