

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Thursday 21 May 2015

Report from the Meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee of the
University of Glasgow and The Glasgow School of Art held on 3
February 2015

Robbie Mulholland, Clerk to the Committee

1. Remit and Membership

The Committee noted the recent departure of Professor Drew, the Deputy Director and Director of Academic Development and Vice-Convener of the Joint Liaison Committee. The Glasgow School of Art (GSA) had no plans to replace Professor Drew in the medium term and a number of her responsibilities would be shared between Dr Williamson and Professor Gunn.

Academic Standards Committee is asked to **approve** the remit and membership of the Joint Liaison Committee for 2014-15, as specified in [Appendix 1](#).

2. Internationalisation Strategy

GSA was in the process of revising its Strategic Plan following the appointment of the new Director, Professor Inns. In light of this, further review of the Internationalisation Strategy would take place. Both documents, along with the new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy, would be submitted to the University in due course.

3. Joint Programme Addenda

The Committee was advised that the addendum template for joint programmes required final minor amendments. The completion of the addenda would be progressed independently of discussions relating to the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) renewal. **[Clerk's Note: It was subsequently agreed with GSA that due to the timing of the review of the MoA, the addenda should be completed at the same time.]**

4. Review of the Memorandum of Agreement and Fees

The Committee noted that the Partnership Review undertaken by the University had been completed, the outcome of which included:-

- agreement to extend the partnership by a further 5 years; and
- the establishment of a strategic group to oversee and monitor the relationship.

It was anticipated that joint discussions on the future direction of the partnership would take place in the near future and would likely inform the review of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) and fees. The Committee recognised that an extension to the current MoA might prove necessary in order to allow sufficient time in which to undertake a comprehensive review of the MoA and fees relating to the partnership. Every effort, however, would be made to reach a conclusion prior to the end of September 2015, when the current MoA was due to expire.

5. Annual Report from the Glasgow School of Art – session 2013-14

5.1 *Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR)*

The Committee noted that the ELIR process had resulted in a positive outcome for GSA and that the Head of Learning and Teaching had been tasked with progressing ELIR enhancement recommendations. These recommendations would inform the School's new Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy due to be completed by June 2015.

5.2 *Update on the Mackintosh Building*

GSA had established a committee chaired by a member of the Board of Governors to oversee the restoration of the Mackintosh Building. A Senior Project Manager and Mackintosh Research Fellow had also been appointed. In addition, interviews of 5 UK architect practices had taken place in March 2015 to identify one firm to lead on the project. Internal consultation events involving staff and students and a public symposium had also taken place during the months of March and April.

5.3 *Collaborative Provision Policy*

GSA was currently preparing a Collaborative Provision Policy, a final draft of which would be submitted to the University in due course.

5.4 *Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) Report*

The following points were noted from the report:

- Session 2013-14 saw the first graduating cohort of SIT students – 104 in total. The Senior Vice Principal, (representing the Principal) conferred degrees at the June 2014 ceremony, accompanied by the Director of the GSA;
- A successful degree show had been held prior to the graduation ceremony in the GSA's new dedicated space at Temasek Polytechnic;
- The one-week PG Certificate Introductory programme provided by the University for GSA Singapore staff had been well received. It was intended that this would be used as a platform for further staff development for academic staff based in Singapore during session 2014-15;
- Recruitment remained buoyant and discussion had taken place regarding possible expansion of provision. SIT had expressed an interest in possible links with the Product Design programmes and had visited GSA's campus in Forres;
- An initial review of SIT/GSA provision had taken place in February resulting in 4 commendations, 4 conditions and 6 recommendations. The Joint Liaison Committee would receive a progress report on actions arising out of the review as part of the 2014-15 Annual Report;
- Discussions were ongoing with SIT regarding joint degrees. GSA was aware that SIT was intending to streamline their partnership arrangements, but no indication had been given that the School or the University would be affected by this; and
- The Committee noted an issue identified by the External Examiner relating to Level 4 students' accumulation of credits during the first iteration of summative assessment. This had resulted in an inability for students to accumulate sufficient credits to achieve an ordinary degree should they fail the Level 4, 100 credit studio course. Five students had been affected in session 2013-14, however following submission of a case for 'good cause', they had been allowed to resubmit by the Board of Examiners. The Committee agreed that, consistent with the University's position for SIT students, consideration should be given to allowing the award of a general degree by exception – the expectation being that

all students would complete Level 4. It was hoped that this, along with a recently established process for the earlier detection of 'students at risk', would help reduce the number of students in danger of failing.

5.5 *Clarification from the University on the use of GSA Personal Data*

GSA members sought clarification from the University of Glasgow that personal data transferred from GSA to the University should be used for Registry purposes only and specifically in relation to validation and graduation requirements. The Clerk agreed to clarify the position following discussion with Registry.

5.6 *Communication from the University regarding Sports Centre Access*

GSA members raised the issue of the removal of GSA student access to the University's Sports and Recreation (SRS) facilities and reiterated previous concerns regarding the short notice given by the University regarding this decision. Removal of access had come about due to overcrowding in the Stevenson Building linked to extension work in the building. The Convener acknowledged the difficulties for GSA arising out of the short notice but highlighted that the overcrowding issue affected all users of the building. There had previously been an agreement between GSA and the University regarding students' access to the facilities and GSA expected that reference to the arrangement would be clarified in the new Memorandum of Agreement.

5.7 *Associate Teachers of the University*

The Committee approved the staff listed in the Annual Report as Associate Teachers of the University and **resolved to recommend** them to Academic Standards Committee for approval as specified in Appendix 2.

5.8 *Update on Creative Futures Partnership*

GSA provided an update on activity associated with the Creative Futures Partnership (a collaboration with Highlands and Islands Enterprise). The research intensive campus at Forres had been launched in January 2015, becoming GSA's third campus (along with Renfrew Street and GSA Singapore). The Committee would be kept informed of future developments linked to this initiative, particularly with respect to plans for taught programmes.

5.9 *Student Feedback*

The Head of the University of Glasgow Academic Collaborations Office noted that the School of Engineering had been piloting Evasys software for on-line and paper based course evaluation for 2 years. GSA members noted this with interest but considered it probably not cost effective for the School.

5.10 *Growth Plans*

The GSA Registrar advised of the School's intention to increase student numbers by 25% to ensure that it could operate with the required 5% surplus.

5.11 *Plagiarism*

University of Glasgow members noted the increase in plagiarism outlined in the Annual Report and acknowledged this might be a consequence of the wider use of Turnitin. Members recognised that plagiarism and cheating in examinations were also issues at the University and acknowledged the support provided by the University's Students' Representative Council (SRC) in addressing this matter.

5.12 *Academic Appeals*

The GSA Head of Academic Registry pointed out that the academic appeals process in session 2013-14 had worked very efficiently. This seemed partly the result of closer

liaison with the Students' Association and the introduction of a pro-forma which students were now required to complete when lodging an appeal.

6. Report from the President of the GSA Students' Association

The following points were noted from the report:

- A new Student Engagement Coordinator had been appointed;
- A review of student engagement had been undertaken by the School resulting in the increased involvement of students in decision-making bodies - including Boards of Studies;
- Students had successfully completed a move from premises on Sauchiehall Street (the McLellan Galleries) to the new Reid Building on Renfrew Street;
- The Students' Association intended to develop a partnership agreement between the Association and the School during 2015; and
- There had been no significant difficulties concerning access to the University Library – a service highly valued by GSA students.

7. External Examiners' Reports

The Committee considered a summary of External Examiner reports for GSA validated programmes prepared by the Senate Office. In general, the reports were positive and GSA had responded well to the issues raised in them. One External Examiner had suggested that it was unusual for final year students not to have the ability to resubmit any aspect of final year coursework. However, the Committee was of the view that the practice of the University in this regard was in line with the rest of the sector.

8. Convener's Business

8.1 REF – University of Glasgow

The Convener confirmed that the University had been rated 13th out of the 24 Russell Group members which was an improvement on the outcome of the previous exercise. He advised that the intention was to undertake a review of the University's units of assessment over the next 18 months to identify the areas to strengthen and where to invest.

8.2 REF – The Glasgow School of Art

GSA had been assessed as the biggest and best for Art, and Design Research in Scotland and the 3rd best in the UK after the University of Arts and the Royal College of Art. This had been a very positive outcome although the Research Excellence Grant (REG) had indicated a potential dip in the market share. GSA was currently lobbying the Scottish Funding Council for transitional funding to mitigate the financial impact for those institutions that submit to a single unit of assessment.

8.3 ELIR 2014

The Convener advised that, in general, the ELIR process had been a positive experience for the University. It had been a robust process and no difficulties had arisen with either the process or the review panel.

9. Student Visas and Immigration

GSA had recently undergone a successful internal audit involving the central services and Schools with regard to arrangements, in line with UKVI requirements. The audit had resulted in only a few recommendations regarding recording and monitoring of attendance and these were currently being addressed.

10. Publications

The Committee noted that wording had been agreed with respect to the nature of the relationship and the students' final award. This would be used for all GSA publications and websites - including those relating to the SIT arrangement.

11. Term Dates

GSA was currently reviewing term dates for session 2015-16. The intention was to move to 2 semesters in line with the majority of the sector in the medium term.

12. Report on Mackintosh Building Fire

The GSA Registrar noted that, following a request from the University, GSA had agreed to share the 'lessons learned' report currently being prepared following the Mackintosh Building fire. Furthermore, the University's Fire Safety Manager had accepted an offer from GSA to join the working group.

13. GSA Student Mental Health Policy

The GSA Registrar noted that GSA had now developed its own policy in relation to student mental health.

Remit and Membership of the Liaison Committee 2014-15

Remit

The Liaison Committee will meet annually to consider an annual report on the performance of all of the programmes leading to awards of the University delivered wholly or jointly by the Glasgow School of Art.

Membership

University of Glasgow

Clerk of Senate and Vice Principal (Convener)	Professor John Briggs
Head of College of Arts (or nominee)	Professor Elizabeth Moignard
SRC President	Ms Breffni O'Connor
Head of School of Culture and Creative Arts (or nominee)	Professor Dimitris Eleftheriotis
Richmond Chair of Fine Art	Professor Nick Pearce
Head of School of Engineering (or nominee)	Professor John Marsh
School of Engineering (SIT liaison)	Dr Donald Ballance
UoG representative on GSA Academic Council	Professor Clare Willsdon
Head of Registry (or nominee)	Mr David Bennion
Head of Academic Collaborations Office (or nominee)	Ms Wendy Muir

Glasgow School of Art

Registrar (Vice Convenor)	Dr Craig Williamson
President of the Students' Association	Mr Will Judge
Head of School of Fine Art	Dr Alistair Payne
Head of School of Design	Professor Irene McAra-McWilliam
Head of Mackintosh School of Architecture	Professor Chris Platt
Director of the Digital Design Studio	Professor Paul Anderson
Head of Graduate School	Dr Madeleine Sclater
Head of Learning and Teaching	Professor Vicky Gunn
Head of Research	Dr Ken Neil
Head of Learning Resources	Ms Alison Stevenson
Joint Acting Heads of Forum for Critical Inquiry	Mr Nicholas Oddy and Dr Sarah Smith

In attendance

Ms Lisa Davidson, Policy Officer (GSA)

Ms Janet Allison, Head of Academic Registry (GSA)

Mrs Jackie McCluskey, Deputy Head of Academic Collaborations Office (UoG)

Ms Barbara Ridley, Deputy Head, School of Design (GSA)

February 2015

Appendix 2

The Liaison Committee **resolved to recommend** the following members of GSA staff as Associate Teachers of the University:

NAME	DEPARTMENT
Heather Young	Institute of Design Innovation
Graeme Armet	Architecture
Tara French	Design Innovation
Elizabeth Brooks	Design Innovation
Daniel Livingstone	Digital Design Studio
Julia Maclean	Fashion and Textiles
Mhairi Maxwell	Digital Design Studio
Emma Murphy	School of Design
Cara Broadley	School of Design
Kirsten Carter McKee	School of Architecture
Lorenzo De Chiffre	School of Architecture
Vicki Lightbody	School of Architecture
Nadia Wagner	GSofA Singapore
Emily Hamilton	Digital Design Studio
Mark Wright	School of Fine Art
Jeroen Blom	Design Innovation
Ana Bonet Miro	School of Architecture
Nicolas Van Labeke	Design Innovation
Katy West	Forum of Critical Inquiry
Thea Stevens	Forum of Critical Inquiry
Giovanna Guidicini	School of Architecture