University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 13 February 2015

Report from the Virtual Programme Approval Group for the College of Arts held on 2 December 2014

Ms H Clegg, Senate Office

Members:

Mr M Karrasch, Professor K O'Dell (Convener), Dr A O'Neill, Dr A Morgan-Thomas

Clerk:

Ms H Clegg

1. *POSTGRADUATE PROPOSALS*

1.1   MLitt Fantasy (New Programme)

As reported to ASC previously, the College of Arts had advised the Programme Approval Group that the documentation relating to the component courses of the proposed MLitt Fantasy had not been presented to the College Board of Studies, and that only verbal descriptions of the courses had been given. It was agreed to remove the MLitt Fantasy proposal from the PAG's business until such times as the course documentation received full consideration and approval by College. College later advised that the documentation relating to the component courses had been produced but a misunderstanding meant it was not presented to College in the usual way.

The PAG received the full proposal after College approval and considered the proposal by email communication. Its observations follow.

Rationale: The programme was being proposed in response to student demand, and would be the only programme of this type in the UK (and likely worldwide).

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at Arts 24-28 (PG). It will be added to the list of awards at Arts 27-28 (PG).

Programme Specification: The Group considered the Programme Specification for this programme, and raised the following points requiring to be addressed:

- In Section 11, the field should be left blank, as the content of the field is published on the HEAR;

- In Section 13, the final bullet point should be removed as this does not constitute a programme aim;

- In Section 14, under the 'skills and other attributes' heading, the words 'describe, interpret and' should be removed from the second bullet point as this is implicit in the use of 'evaluate'. In the third bullet point, the word 'critically' should be removed as 'critical' appears later in the sentence;

- In Section 15, the words 'assessment is entirely on the basis of coursework' should be replaced with 'the programme uses a variety of assessment methods. The different assessment methods should be presented as a bulleted list. A distinction should be drawn between summative and formative assessment;

- In Section 16, the information relating to 'occasional workshops on humanities computing' should be removed unless this can be confirmed;

- In Section 18, information on what is meant by 'Graduate Training Course' should be provided. The optional courses should either be added to the table or, preferably, a web link should be provided. Part (d) of the regulations information should be deleted.

Conclusion:

The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified above being made.

[Clerk's note: The amendments requested by the PAG have been made and full approval of the proposal is now recommended].