University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 17 April 2015

Report from the Programme Approval Group for the College of Science & Engineering, held on 20 March 2015

Ms H Clegg, Senate Office

Present:

Professor N Evans (Convener), Dr A Orr, Dr H Stoddart

In attendance:

Ms H Clegg, Professor J Davies

1.   UNDERGRADUATE PROPOSALS

1.1   BEng (Hons) Electronics & Electrical Engineering with Communications (Joint Educational Programme with UESTC) (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme is being proposed as part of a suite of programmes to be covered by a Joint Educational Institute with UESTC, in line with the University's strategy to expand transnational education.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at SciEng 16-17 (UG), which will require minor amendment.

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

Points for discussion:

- In Section 13, in the second paragraph, 'graduate students' should read 'graduates'. The information after the first bulleted list should be deleted;

- In Section 14, in the final bullet point under the 'knowledge and understanding' heading, the text should be amended to read '…the relationship between electronics and other engineering disciplines…';

- In Section 15, the text after the first bulleted list should be deleted;

- In Section 16, the first bullet point should end at 'normally provided'. The first bullet point in the last group of three should be reworded as it may not be clear to the reader what is meant by a 'constrained design project';

- In Section 17, the information on QAA guidelines should be deleted;

- In Section 18, an explanation should be provided as to why some courses have (UESTC) within the title and how these differ from the others. The exit awards should be incorporated into the table, and the 'awards' section can then be deleted. It should be made clear that students need to pass 128 credits of material required by the Chinese Ministry of Education in order to receive the award from UESTC;

- In Section 19, the first paragraph under the standard text should be deleted.

It was indicated in the Proposal Support Document that the business case for this new degree was reliant on the application for a Joint Educational Institute. This was still under development.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified being made, and the business case for the Joint Educational Institute being approved.

1.2 BSc Hons/MA Hons/MA (SocSci) Hons in Psychological Studies combined with another Subject (New Programme)

Rationale: The programme is being proposed in order to allow joint Honours students to complete a dissertation in a non-psychology subject, without eligibility for Graduate Basis for Chartered Membership with the British Psychological Society.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at SciEng 11-14 (UG)

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

Points for discussion:

- In Section 12, the link should be to the undergraduate, not postgraduate, prospectus;
- In Section 13, the first bullet point should be amended to read 'To expose students to an environment in which advances in psychological research are being made'. In the second bullet point, the words '(as required by the BPS) and another subject' should be added at the end. The final bullet point should be deleted;
- In Section 14, the first two sets of bullet points are duplicated. The ILOs should be rewritten to avoid duplication, using active verbs, and reflective of the level of the programme;
- In Section 18, the courses listed underneath the tables should be incorporated into the table to clarify the structure. It should be clarified that the 'other subjects' in year 4 must include a project. It should be clarified that the various combinations are available where timetabling allows.

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

1.3 BEng (Hons) Electronics & Electrical Engineering (Joint Educational Programme with UESTC) (Major Change)

Rationale: The change was being proposed in order to introduce courses on English for Engineering into the curriculum in the first four semesters. These courses would be included in the progress rules for the programme.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the regulations set out in the University Calendar at SciEng 16-17 (UG), which will require minor amendment.

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

Points for discussion:

- In Section 13, in the second paragraph, 'graduate students' should read 'graduates'. The information after the first bulleted list should be deleted;
- In Section 14, in the final bullet point under the 'knowledge and understanding' heading, the text should be amended to read '…the relationship between electronics and other engineering disciplines…';

- In Section 15, the text after the first bulleted list should be deleted;

- In Section 16, the first bullet point should end at 'normally provided'. The first bullet point in the last group of three should be reworded as it may not be clear to the reader what is meant by a 'constrained design project';

- In Section 17, the information on QAA guidelines should be deleted;

- In Section 18, an explanation should be provided as to why some courses have (UESTC) within the title and how these differ from the others. The exit awards should be incorporated into the table, and the 'awards' section can then be deleted. It should be made clear that students need to pass 128 credits of material required by the Chinese Ministry of Education in order to receive the award from UESTC;

- In Section 19, the first paragraph under the standard text should be deleted.

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

2.   *POSTGRADUATE PROPOSALS*

2.1   **MSc Land & Hydrographic Surveying with Work Placement (New Programme)**

Rationale: The programme has been developed in discussion with industry and students, in order to enhance practical skills development and employability.

Regulations: The programme will be governed by the generic regulations set out in the University Calendar at SciEng 20-23 (PG), and will be added to the list of programmes at SciEng 23-24 (PG).

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

Points for discussion:

- In Section 12, clarification of 'appropriate mathematical background' is required;

- In Section 13, the final sentence should be deleted;

- In Section 14, many of the ILOs were not appropriate for a Masters level programme. These should be rewritten to reflect the level of the programme. The first ILO under the 'intellectual skills' heading should appear under 'subject specific skills';

- In Section 15, the final paragraph should be deleted;

- In Section 18, the first paragraph should start 'This is a professional programme…' The second paragraph should be deleted. The third paragraph might be moved to Section 13, or should be deleted. Under 'regulations', section (d) should be deleted.

Although the proposer had indicated that the programme would be governed by the generic regulations, the Group noted that the requirements for progression to the work placement (an overall GPA of B3 or better, with no course below C3, at first attempt) were higher than those detailed in the generic regulations. ASC is asked to comment on the acceptability of this variance.

Conclusion: The Group recommends the proposal to ASC, subject to the amendments identified being made, and the acceptance by ASC of the higher progression requirement.

3. *SPOT CHECKING OF PROPOSALS*

Under the current process, Programme Approval Groups examine only the programme specification and support document for programme proposals. However, PAGs reserve the right to ask for full documentation if desired. It was recommended in the Deloitte Internal Audit report that occasional 'spot checks' be undertaken on proposal documentation.

In line with this recommendation, the Clerk reported a sample of proposals had been selected for spot-checking, and that the full documentation for the proposals shown below had been examined:

- BSc Hons/MA Hons/MA (SocSci) Hons in Psychological Studies combined with another Subject

  All documentation was found to be in order.

- MSc Land & Hydrographic Surveying with Work Placement

  All documentation was found to be in order.