

University of Glasgow**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 30 September 2016****Report from the Meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee of the University of Glasgow and The Glasgow School of Art held on 8 February 2016****Robbie Mulholland, Clerk to the Committee****1. New Year Honours List**

The Convener, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Professor McAra-McWilliam on her award of an OBE in the recent New Year Honours list for services to Art and Design.

2. Remit and Membership of the Joint Liaison Committee for 2015-16

Changes to membership of the Committee included the following:

- Professor Moignard who had previously attended as the Head of the College of Arts nominee, would now attend as one of the University representatives on GSA Academic Council;
- Professor Pearce would now attend as the Head of the College of Arts nominee;
- Professor Willsdon would now attend as the University representative on GSA's Programme Monitoring and Annual Reporting (PMAR) group;
- Ms Janet Allison would replace Dr Craig Williamson; and
- Mrs Jackie McCluskey would remain the nominated representative for the Head of the Academic Collaborations Office (ACO).

The Convener noted that the membership of the Committee had been reduced and the remit expanded. This would further clarify the Committee's role with respect to quality assurance and enhancement and create a forum more conducive to focused discussion.

Academic Standards Committee (ASC) is asked to **approve** the remit and membership of the Joint Liaison Committee for 2015-16, as specified in Appendix 1.

3. Joint Programme Addenda

The Committee noted that the main institutional contacts were in discussion regarding the completion of Joint Programme Agreements. It had previously been agreed that they would be addenda to the main agreement however, following advice from the University's solicitors they would be stand-alone agreements.

4. Review of the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) and Fees

The current MoA had been extended for one year until September 2016 to allow sufficient time to undertake a comprehensive review of the agreement and fees relating to the partnership. The review was on-going with the aim of submitting documents to the May meeting of GSA Academic Council. In advance of this, clarification was being sought as to the exact nature of the documentation required by GSA's committees. It was acknowledged that the timescale was very tight; however, every effort was being made to meet this deadline.

5. Update on the Mackintosh Building

Negotiations regarding insurance arrangements for the Mackintosh Building had been concluded. The settlement had allowed GSA to adjust its fundraising targets for restoration accordingly. The tendering process was complete and the main contractor was expected on site in May 2016. A series of consultations involving Schools, Learning Resources, GSA Enterprises and Technical Support had also been undertaken to consider future space utilisation within the building.

6. Clarification from the University on the Use of GSA Personal Data

The University used GSA personal data primarily in relation to Registry purposes, ie in relation to validation and graduation. In addition to this, the University used GSA personal data to fulfil its obligation in relation to General Council membership. All graduates of the University, including GSA graduates were required, under the provisions of the Universities Scotland Act, to become members of the University General Council (with the exception of graduates from a group of GSA programmes which had been given exemption from this requirement by the University Court).

The details of GSA graduates who were members of the General Council were held in the General Council database which was managed by the University Development and Alumni Office (DAO). The University was legally required to hold details of General Council members, and as such, GSA graduates (with the exception of those from programmes in the exempted group) were not permitted to opt out of General Council membership. GSA graduates, however, could elect not to receive information concerning the General Council from the DAO by unsubscribing from the mailing list. The records of GSA graduates on the General Council database were already flagged not to receive fund-raising information concerning the University.

Discussions between the ACO and GSA were on-going regarding this matter and a mutually acceptable conclusion was anticipated shortly.

7. Update on Creative Futures Partnership

The Creative Futures Partnership was a strategic initiative between GSA and Highlands and Islands Enterprise entered into in 2010 with the aim of developing a creative industries hub in the Highlands. A new campus would be launched at Altyre estate near Forres from where several new PGT programmes would be delivered from September 2016. A team from the University would visit the campus in August 2016 and the main aim of the visit would be to ensure that the learning experience and facilities available to students on the approved PGT programmes would be equivalent to that enjoyed by students at GSA's main campus.

8. Growth Plans

One of the key goals of GSA's Strategic Plan was to achieve a minimum 25% growth across its entire portfolio of activity within 3 years. It was noted that the campus estate and infrastructure would need to adapt to accommodate this expansion and the particular requirements of studio-based learning. A campus-wide planning exercise had taken place early in session 2014-15 and formed the basis of plans for estate development. More recently, the site of the former Stow College had come on the market and following submission of a bid to purchase the site, GSA was understood to be the preferred bidder. If the bid was successful and redevelopment went ahead, it was expected the facility would be operational from session 2017-18.

9. Annual Report from the Glasgow School of Art for Session 2014-15

9.1 Academic Structure of GSA

An Executive Group-level review of professional services and academic provision had taken place within GSA following the departure of the Deputy Director and Director of Academic Development in December 2014. Key developments included:

- the removal of the post of Deputy Director from the management structure and the incorporation of related oversight responsibilities within the remits of the Head of Learning and Teaching, Head of Research and the Registrar and Secretary, as appropriate;
- the introduction of a fourth School (of Visualisation and Simulation). This would evolve out of the existing Digital Design Studio and would develop new UG programmes as well as contributing to existing PGT provision;
- the integration of the provision of history and theory (previously overseen by the Forum for Critical Inquiry) within the Schools of Design and Fine Art led by the Joint Acting Heads of the Forum for Critical Inquiry; and
- the dissolution of the Graduate School at the end of session 2014/15. PhD students previously registered within the Graduate School had been re-assigned to either the School of Fine Art or the School of Design, as appropriate.

9.2 Internationalisation Strategy

The Committee noted that GSA continued to work closely with GSA Singapore and senior SIT colleagues to explore further collaboration opportunities including continuing professional development courses and shared research themes. GSA would undertake a review of existing collaborative provision in Singapore and other opportunities emerging elsewhere, on the return of key staff from Singapore. At the same time, discussions were taking place regarding the renewal of their MoA with SIT. The Committee was advised that GSA was not anticipating any change to the existing provision in Singapore at this time.

The Convener stressed that it was essential that the University be consulted ahead of any negotiations to alter existing collaborative provision with SIT, for example any proposal to introduce a joint degree. GSA advised that joint degrees had not been raised with them but would keep the ACO informed of any developments.

9.3 Collaborative Provision Policies: UK Articulation and International Articulation

GSA's International Articulation and UK Articulation policies were under on-going consideration by the Academic Council. Both policy documents would be submitted to the ACO when available, at which point ACO would review GSA's whole suite of policies relating to collaborative provision.

GSA was also progressing proposals for an articulation agreement with Glasgow Clyde College (GCC) which would formalise a relationship which had been in place between the two institutions for a number of years. Under this agreement, HNC Art and Design students at GCC would be eligible to join GSA's Associate Student Scheme and be guaranteed an admissions interview subject to the submission of an e-portfolio.

9.4 ELIR 2014 Follow-Up Report

The Committee was advised that the GSA ELIR Follow-Up Report had been submitted to QAA Scotland in August 2015. The report reflected on the changing organisational context at GSA in the period since 2014 and the effect on learning and teaching. This included the impact of estate development, the fire in the Mackintosh Building and the

implications arising from the new remit of the Head of Learning and Teaching. Furthermore, the report highlighted the key objectives of the Strategic Plan, central to which was GSA's ambition to become a global leader in studio-based learning and research.

9.5 NSS Results

The Committee noted that headline figures from the most recent National Student Survey (NSS) for GSA revealed increased satisfaction on the previous year for teaching quality, academic support and overall satisfaction. Results from the sections regarding 'Teaching on My Course' and 'Academic Support' were at the highest level since GSA first took part in the survey. However, outcomes from the sections relating to 'Assessment and Feedback', 'Organisation and Management' and 'Learning and Resources' remained challenging.

Reservations were expressed regarding the extent to which the results of the NSS were a true reflection of the student experience at GSA. Some sections of the survey used terminology and metrics which did not reflect the structure of learning at GSA – and other Art Schools. The Head of Learning and Teaching was exploring with Heads of Schools how GSA's results in the NSS compared with those of other Small Specialist Institutions (SSIs).

The Head of Learning and Teaching advised that the NSS was currently undergoing a review and that GSA, along with other Architecture Schools, had contacted the SFC on this matter. It was considered that a modified NSS would better recognise the distinct character of learning at SSIs and help improve GSA's results.

9.6 Programme Monitoring and Annual Reporting

An important theme identified during Programme Monitoring and Annual Reporting (PMAR) was the impact of increased student numbers on studio/workshop space. This concern was reflected in Annual Summary Reports and many Annual Programme reports. Increased demands on GSA's estate and learning resources were already apparent and it was recognised that this required consideration at all levels of the institution. It was noted that steps had already been taken to improve access to learning resources and library and workshop opening hours had been extended.

The Head of Learning and Teaching noted that the development and consideration of the Programme Monitoring and Annual Reporting process involved a considerable amount of work on the part of academic and professional support staff. She would therefore explore ways to streamline the process and associated paperwork, in conjunction with the Head of Policy and Governance. The whole quality framework in Scotland was presently under review and a Scottish-wide group had been set up to identify what constituted teaching excellence and how to measure it. The findings of the group would very likely influence what procedural changes could be made at institutional level.

9.7 Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy

The Committee received an update on the progress of the Learning and Teaching Enhancement Strategy. A substantial consultation exercise had taken place during session 2014-15 to identify the core aspects of teaching and learning at GSA. The possible re-alignment of the postgraduate taught credit structure would be a significant aspect of the strategy. This would involve moving the credit structure from components of 15 credits to one consisting of components of 10 or 20 credits. In the event this change went ahead, it would have a considerable impact on PGT provision at GSA.

9.8 GSA Strategic Plan – 2015-18

The GSA Strategic Plan approved in September 2015 was now entering the implementation phase and the Director had set up a group which included all Heads of Professional Services to progress matters. Schools had been set ambitious recruitment targets and there had been a large increase in applications for session 2016-17. Targets had been met by the Digital Design Studio and exceeded by the School of Fine Art and Design.

Members sought assurance regarding what arrangements GSA estates would make to accommodate the large increase in student numbers during the closure of the Mackintosh Building. The Head of the School of Design noted that the provision of studio-based learning space was a key component of the Strategic Plan and, as such, GSA estates had committed to providing suitable accommodation.

9.9 Student Complaints

The Committee was advised that 5 students on the MSc in International Heritage Visualisation had submitted complaints in session 2014-15 regarding the operation and content of the programme. QAA Scotland and the Scottish Public Service Ombudsman (SPSO) had subsequently engaged with GSA regarding this matter. GSA had expressed concern at an early stage regarding the application of the *Protocol for Managing Potential Risks to Quality and Academic Standards*. GSA had now recommended to the SFC that a sector-wide partnership review of the Protocol and its application would be beneficial. In addition, GSA along with the University of St Andrews would be submitting a joint paper on this issue to the Academic Registrars' Council (ARC). The Committee recognised that such cases highlighted the increasing pastoral demands being placed on academic staff across the sector and agreed that this represented a hidden cost for many institutions.

9.10 Structure of the Academic Year

Following a review of the structure of the academic year at GSA, it was proposed to move from a 3 term model for undergraduate and postgraduate programmes to 2 semesters. This would align GSA with the University and the rest of the sector. It would also facilitate exchange agreements, collaborations and permit content sharing between postgraduate taught programmes and the fourth year of undergraduate programmes. A proposal to introduce a semester-based structure, with effect from session 2017-18, had been submitted to the GSA Executive Group.

9.11 SIT Report

The following points were noted from the report:

- The second cohort of students (110 in total) graduated in session 2014-15. Professor Juster had attended the ceremony in June 2015 to represent the Principal and confer degrees, along with the GSA Director Professor Inns;
- A successful degree show, which had coincided with the graduation, had been held at the National Design Centre in Singapore;
- Recruitment to the Singapore programmes remained buoyant and session 2014-15 saw an increase in applications and places offered;
- A review of provision at Singapore had taken place during session 2014-15. This involved representation from staff in Glasgow and both staff and students in Singapore. The outcome identified 5 commendations, 7 recommendations and 4 conditions. The School of Design's action plan which set out its response

to the review would be considered by the Undergraduate and Postgraduate Committee in due course and a copy submitted to the ACO;

- There had been no academic appeals or academic-related complaints in session 2014/15, however there had been two cases of academic misconduct in the form of plagiarism which had been upheld. It was noted that access to Student Support for students based in Singapore was available through the recently established SIT Student Services Centre. In the event a student based in Singapore submitted an appeal or complaint, he/she would get support from the relevant staff at GSA Glasgow should they request it;
- Interviews for the post of Programme Director, GSA Singapore had taken place recently and GSA was hopeful of filling the position on a long-term basis. The present post-holder (the Head of International Academic Development (GSA)) had held the post on a temporary basis since September 2015; and
- The partnership between GSA and SIT remained extremely positive with several reciprocal visits by staff and students taking place throughout session 2014-15.

9.12 Associate University Teachers

The Committee approved the staff outlined in the Annual Report as Associate University teachers and **resolved to recommend** them to ASC for approval. [A list of the new staff is attached as Appendix 2].

9.13 External Examiners' Reports

In a new development this session, it had been agreed that the Committee would receive Programme Leaders' responses to External Examiners' comments. Many External Examiners' comments highlighted staff and student concerns regarding the potential impact of increased student numbers on already stretched workshop/studio space. The Committee was assured that GSA would monitor the impact of growth and take the necessary steps to mitigate any adverse effect on the student experience.

10. Student Business

The President of GSA Student Association (SA) provided an oral report to the Committee. He drew members' attention to the following items of particular interest:

- A recent audit of the SA had revealed a turnover of over £1M. A restructuring exercise had been undertaken to accommodate increased sales;
- The SA was working on a partnership agreement with GSA which would help generate increased activity across both organisations;
- Additional funding had been allocated for extra-curricular educational projects which would supplement existing termly and annual funding streams;
- A student partnership agreement was being developed with GSA and work was on-going to formalise this relationship within the SA constitution;
- The number of societies operating under the auspices of the SA had doubled since the last meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee;
- Open forum events based around specific themes had helped increase the direct participation of students;
- The SA, working in conjunction with Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland (Sparqs), had provided training for trainers of student representatives; and

- The title of the SA's Vice-President had been changed to Events Convenor to more accurately reflect the scope of the role.

11. Convener's Business

The Convener advised members that the Interim Meeting would normally be held twice a year. This provided a forum for more focused discussions around operational issues and would involve the main institutional contacts.

12. Visas and Immigration

The Committee was advised that the UKVI had recently undertaken a visit to the GSA main campus. The agency had received assurance on a number of issues particularly in relation to Tier 4 visa administration at the new Creative Campus in Forres. The issue of Tier 4 students working in institutions in excess of the 20 hours per week permitted maximum had become particularly important for the UKVI. The Committee heard that an institution found to be employing a Tier 4 student in excess of 20 hours per week and in breach of Tier 4 licence conditions could face severe penalties, including the loss of its licence and large fines.

The GSA Academic Registry had also recently undergone an internal audit. No recommendations were expected to follow from this.

13. Publications

The Convener thanked GSA members for continuing to send the University copies of their publicity materials which referenced the University. Under the QAA Quality Code, the University was responsible for reviewing such materials published by its validated institutions prior to publication.

14. Appointment of Head of ACO

The Committee was informed that Ms Nancy Donald had recently been appointed to the post of Head of the ACO. She would take up the position at the end of February 2016.

University of Glasgow and The Glasgow School of Art

Remit, Composition and Membership of the Joint Liaison Committee 2015-16

Remit

The Joint Liaison Committee (JLC) is a sub-committee of the University's Academic Standards Committee and Senate. The JLC will meet annually to consider a report provided by the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) on the performance of all programmes leading to awards of the University delivered wholly or jointly by GSA. It will:

- monitor and approve academic standards, quality assurance procedures and enhancement of quality processes;
- monitor and approve the quality of the learning opportunities for students;
- monitor the quality of the management and enhancement of the student experience;
- promote dialogue on areas in which quality might be enhanced;
- encourage and support critical reflection on practice;
- identify good practice for dissemination as appropriate; and
- report to Senate through Academic Standards Committee.

Composition and Membership

University of Glasgow

Clerk of Senate and Vice Principal (Convener)	Professor John Briggs
Head of College of Arts (or nominee)	Professor Nick Pearce
SRC President (or nominee)	Mr Liam King
Head of School of Culture and Creative Arts (or nominee)	Professor Dimitris Eleftheriotis
Head of School of Engineering (or nominee)	Professor John Marsh
UoG representative on GSA Academic Council	Professor Elizabeth Moignard
UoG representative on GSA Programme Monitoring and Annual Reporting	Professor Clare Willsdon
Head of Academic Collaborations Office (or nominee)	Mrs Jackie McCluskey

The Glasgow School of Art

Head of Policy and Governance (Deputy Secretary)	Mrs Janet Allison
President of the Students' Association	Mr Lewis Prosser
*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
Head of Learning and Teaching

Professor Paul Anderson
Professor Vicky Gunn

*[*Will act as Vice Convener on a rotational basis]*

In attendance

Ms Lisa Davidson, Senior Policy Officer (GSA)

Mr Robbie Mulholland, Academic Collaborations Manager (UoG)

APPENDIX 2

NAME	DEPARTMENT
Monica Nunez Laisecca	School of Fine Art
Vicky Gunn	Learning and Teaching
Grainne McGill	School of Architecture
Sneha Raman Komnedath	School of Design
Sebastian Penforinis	School of Architecture
Brian Loranger	Digital Design Studio/School of Design
Sanne Rae Barthals	School of Design
Fiona Jardine	Forum for Critical Inquiry
Marti Franch Bartlori	School of Architecture
Marjan Angoshtari	School of Design
Arthi Kanchana Manohar	Institute of Innovation Design, School of Design
Steve Love	Digital Design Studio
Sandy Louchart	Digital Design Studio
Angela Tulloch	Institute of Innovation Design, School of Design
Colin Faulks	School of Design
Katherine Champion	Digital Design Studio
Koen Broucke	School of Architecture
Gerard Briscoe	Creative Campus, Institute of Innovation Design
Seung-Ho Lee	GS of A Singapore
Conor Kelly	Professional and Continuing Education
Thomai Pnevmonidou	School of Design
George Jaramillo	Institute of Innovation Design, School of Design
Anthony Brotheridge	School of Design
Tine Thorup	School of Design
Jen Baillie	School of Design