

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 19 May 2017

Report from the Meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee of the University of Glasgow (UoG) and Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) held on 25 November 2016

Robbie Mulholland – Academic Collaborations Office

1. Remit and Membership

Changes to the membership of the Committee were proposed. It was noted that there was a vacancy due to the retirement of a member of SRUC staff.

The Academic Standards Committee (ASC) is invited to **approve** the membership of the Joint Liaison Committee, as specified in Appendix 1.

2. Interim Meetings for Administrative Officers at SRUC and UoG Held on 14 April 2016 and 17 August 2016

The following points were noted from the interim meetings:

- 2.1 A Cooperation Agreement was in place between SRUC and UWS for the 'teach out' arrangement for the BA Sports Coaching and Development programme. The Academic Collaborations Office (ACO) was content that the questions it had raised regarding the ongoing monitoring and quality of provision had been satisfactorily addressed within the Cooperation Agreement. The Clerk of Senate and ASC were also content with the provisions contained within the Agreement. The Joint Liaison Committee would be kept updated on the ongoing monitoring of the BA Sports Coaching and Development programme during the 'teach out' period, through the Annual Report and the two interim meetings.
- 2.2 A revalidation event for the MSc in Countryside Management had taken place on 22 November 2016. The programme had undergone significant changes that had impacted positively on student recruitment but some changes to the framework were still required in order to fully address External Examiner's concerns. On completion of these changes, it was hoped that the final report would be submitted to ASC.
[Clerk's note: The final report was submitted to ASC on 24 March 2017, and the revalidation of the MSc in Countryside Management was approved for 6 years, from September 2017.]

3. Annual Report from SRUC for Session 2014-15

The following points were noted from the Annual Report:

- 3.1 SRUC was investigating the procurement of an effective system to collect anonymous and quantifiable student feedback with respect to individual modules. SRUC had undertaken a pilot of the EvaSys system and had met with UoG staff who already used this system to assess whether it might be suitable for their needs. SRUC considered, however, that EvaSys was quite expensive and was therefore considering alternative systems. It was noted that utilising data from the National Student Survey (NSS) was not

always practical in the case of SRUC given the small numbers of students on certain programmes.

- 3.2 SRUC was considering working towards degree awarding powers, however no decision would be taken on this until after the next ELIR had taken place. The date of this would be confirmed by the QAA and was unlikely to be before Spring 2019.
- 3.3 Procedures regarding complaints, academic misconduct, academic appeals and student discipline had been put in place across the merged institutions during 2015/16. Useful feedback regarding these procedures had been received from UoG and there was nothing in the comments which were critical. Any revisions, which would incorporate both UoG and SRUC students' suggestions, would not be made until 2017-18.
- 3.4 SRUC's review of academic governance had resulted in changes to the structure of the Academic Board. The Board would become much larger with increased student representation and a more education-focussed remit. As part of these changes, UoG would be required to identify at least one representative to join the Board. SRUC would provide UoG with details regarding the Board's new structure and remit in due course, with a view to a UoG member being nominated to join the Board.
- 3.5 SRUC was producing an Educational Manual but its preparation had been delayed by resourcing issues. Some sections of the Manual would be developed in consultation with the University and SRUC would liaise with the ACO on these matters in due course.
- 3.6 The Board considered the NSS results in particular the matter of the poor feedback from the statement in the NSS survey 'Feedback on my work has been prompt'. Results for this particular question were not poor overall but there had been a worsening of the result. SRUC was aware of specific factors which had contributed to the result, such as cross programme modules delivered across several campuses and student workload issues. Although promptness of feedback had been identified as an issue in the NSS, between two thirds and three quarters of students had also reported that when feedback was received, it was of a high quality. The following ideas were considered as a possible means of improving the NSS score:
 - Possible alteration to the mode of assessment for assessed work;
 - The need for greater clarity around marking criteria for assignments;
 - The need to ensure that feedback was specific, developmental and perceived by students to be an important means by which they could improve performance;
 - The avoidance of unrealistic goal-setting for students; and
 - The setting of mutually agreed targets for both staff and students with respect to learning outcomes.

SRUC had still to decide whether to participate in the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF). Their reservations regarding the framework included concerns that metric-based measurements did not favour small institutions and that agricultural training was not classed as skilled.

4. New Members of Teaching Staff

Academic Standards Committee is invited to **approve** the following staff, as listed below in [Appendix 2](#) for recognition as Associate University Lecturers.

5. New External Examiner

Academic Standards Committee is invited to **note** the following member of staff, as listed below in Appendix 3 as an external examiner. Dr Wallace will succeed Dr Wilson.

6. Memorandum of Agreement/Partnership Review

Following the successful outcome of the Partnership Review, it had been agreed to extend the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the two institutions for a period of five years, with effect from 1 October 2016. The Principal of UoG had written to the Principal of SRUC to confirm the outcome of the Review.

7. Report from the SRUC Student Association Sabbatical Officer

The SRUC Student Association (SRUCSA) had identified ten key priorities for the year ahead. These included:-

- increasing student representation on the SRUC Board;
- increasing student candidature for each elected role during student elections;
- widening student participation in the Association's activities;
- the introduction of dedicated longer-term staff positions for SRUCSA; and
- more involvement by SRUCSA in decision-making processes which affects the SRUC student experience and the preparation of a financial management plan.

SRUCSA was continuing to promote a range of activities through the Student Partnership Agreement between SRUC and SRUCSA. The Agreement set out a number of key areas that both bodies had agreed to work together on, for the benefit of the wider student body. Initiatives under consideration included plans to introduce a student feedback project and a programme to prioritise environmental issues.

SRUCSA was also promoting a series of initiatives aimed at improving cross-campus communication. This included the appointment of part-time Campus Officers by SRUCSA; increased promotion of sports activities across SRUC campuses and inter-programme discussions between students on a variety of issues.

University of Glasgow

Joint Liaison Committee for the University of Glasgow and SRUC

Remit and Membership

2016-17

Remit

The Joint Liaison Committee will meet annually to:

- a) consider an annual report on the performance of all of the programmes leading to awards of the University delivered wholly or jointly by the SRUC;
- b) monitor and ensure that the terms and conditions and expectations that were originally approved have been, and continue to be, met;
- c) consider ongoing risk management and maintenance of a risk register.¹

Membership

University	
Clerk of Senate (Convener)	Professor John Briggs
Head of School of Life Sciences	Professor Simon Guild
Head of School of Veterinary Medicine	Professor Ewan Cameron
University Member (College of MVLS)	Professor Jim Anderson (nominee for Professor Jill Morrison, Dean of Learning and Teaching, MVLS)
Crichton Campus representative (College of Social Sciences)	Dr Donald MacLeod
Head of Academic Collaborations Office (or nominee)	Mrs Jackie McCluskey
SRC Representative (or nominee)	Mr Joshua McCahill
Scotland's Rural College²	
Principal (or nominee) (Vice Convener)	Mr David James
Assistant Principal, Higher Education	Dr Kyrsten Black
Academic Development Manager, Higher Education	Vacancy
SRUC Student Association President (or nominee)	Mr James Bamkin
In Attendance	
Teaching Group Managers and/or Programme Leaders, as and if required	
Academic Collaborations Manager (Clerk)	Dr Kenneth Hutton
Academic Collaborations Manager (Minute taker)	Mrs Anita Clarke

¹ Subject to approval at the meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee 2016-17.

² Vice Principal Research attending as and when required.

APPENDIX 2: New Members of Teaching Staff to be Approved as Associate University Lecturers

<u>Name</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>	<u>Position/Dept</u>	<u>Previous Post/s</u>
Carla Coghlan	PGCE Professional Studies; Postgraduate Training, University of Glasgow; BSc (Hons)	Lecturer, Education Division, Agriculture and Business Management Dept., SRUC Aberdeen Campus.	Campus Officer, SRUC, Aberdeen; Supervisor and Farm Worker, Stewart Tower, Dairy, Stanley; Tutor, Aim Higher Mentoring Scheme.
Dr Caroline Roberts	CPD – Technology Enhanced Learning; MSc Information Technology; PGCE FE/HE; PhD; BSc.	Lecturer, Education Division, Agriculture and Business Management Dept., SRUC Ayr Campus.	Lecturer in Information Technology and e-learning, Scottish Agricultural College; Educational Developer, University of Dundee.
Dr Petra Vergunst	PhD; MSc.	Lecturer, Education Division, Agriculture and Business Management Dept., SRUC Aberdeen	Distance-Learning Tutor, IBP Academy, Scotland; Lecturer, SRUC, Aberdeen; Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen; Researcher, Scottish Agricultural College, Aberdeen; Lecturer, Wageningen University, The Netherlands; Research Assistant, Centre for Agriculture and Environment, Utrecht, The Netherlands.
Dr Norman Stephen	BSc (Hons), PhD, Professional Memberships - Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.	Lecturer, Agriculture and Business Management Dept., Education Division, SRUC Aberdeen	Contract Lecturer, SRUC, Aberdeen; Programme Leader/Team Leader and Lecturer, SAC and SRUC, Aberdeen; Lecturer, SAC, Aberdeen, Chemist/Biochemist, SAC Aberdeen; Research Assistant, University of Glasgow.

Professor Bryan Griffiths	PhD; BSc (Hons).	Researcher, Crop and Soil Systems Group, SRUC, Edinburgh	Professor of Soil Ecology, SRUC Edinburgh; Soil Scientist, SRUC, Edinburgh; Acting Head of Department, Teagasc, Wexford, Ireland. SFI Stokes Professor of Soil Science, Teagasc, Wexford, Ireland; Associate Programme Leader, SCRI, Dundee; Principal Scientific Officer/ Senior Scientific Officer/Higher Scientific Officer, SCRI, Dundee; Higher Scientific Officer, MLURI, Aberdeen.
Dr John Bradley	PhD, BSc (Hons), Member of the British Ecological Society.	Researcher in Crop Science, Crop and Soil Systems Group, SRUC, Edinburgh.	Research Scientist, SRUC; Short-term contracts for University of Aberdeen and SAC; Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Aberdeen.
Dr Maree Brennan	PhD, MSc, PGDipSci.. BSc.	Researcher/Lecturer, Crop and Soils Systems Group, SRUC, Edinburgh	Postdoctoral Research Associate, SRUC, Edinburgh; Research Fellow, Philip Harris Laboratory, University of Auckland, New Zealand.
Dr Barry Hunter Thorp	BVMS, PhD, Diplomat European College of Poultry Veterinary Science	St Davids Poultry Team, Midlothian Innovation Centre, Roslin, Midlothian.	Director, Veterinary Services, Aviagen Ltd., Veterinary Research Officer and named Veterinary Surgeon, Roslin Institute; Lecturer, University of Melbourne; Houseman, University of Glasgow; Assistant in Mixed Practice.
Colin Hardacre	BSc (Hons), BA (Hons)	Lecturer, Education Division, Environment and Countryside, SRUC, Aberdeen	Park Ranger, Craftsman Grade II, Area Planner and Projects Manager,

		Campus.	Royal Mail Group
Marcus Craigie	BSc (Hons)	Lecturer, Department of Environment and Countryside, SRUC, Ayr Campus.	Ecological Field Assistant, RPS; Environmental Consultant WSP; Projects Assistant, Heriot-Watt University; Student Scholar, Aquatera, Assistant Environmental Consultant, Xodus Group.
Dr Chris Smillie	Lecturer, Department of Environment and Countryside, SRUC.	BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD, PGCE in Higher Education, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Board Member of the CIEEM Training, Education and Career Development Committee and Academic Interest Group.	Senior Lecturer, Nottingham Trent University; Senior Ecologist, Worley Parsons, Senior Ecologist, Jacobs; Ecologist, Young Associates; Ecologist, Mott MacDonald, Laboratory Technician, Scottish Water; Ecologist/Conservation Assistant, Scottish Wildlife Trust.
Dr Ian Lewis	MA, MSc, PhD, HND, TQFE.	Lecturer, Environment and Countryside Dept, Education Division, SRUC.	Postdoctoral Research Scientist; Ranger, Historic Scotland.
Dr Susanne Padel	Dip. Ing., PhD, Member of ISO FAR, International Society of Organic Agriculture Research	Lecturer, Agriculture and Business Mgt Dept, SRUC and The Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Berkshire.	Senior Programme Manager/Principal Researcher and Team Leader, The Organic Research Centre, Elm Farm, Research Associate, Aberystwyth University; Consultant, Okoring Schleswig Holstein.

Appendix 3: For note: Appointment of External Examiner

<u>Name</u>	<u>Qualifications</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>University</u>
Dr Michael Wallace	BSc (Hons), PhD Member of: The Agricultural Economics Society (AES) – Uk, The Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) – American, The Agricultural Economics Society of Ireland (AESI)	Senior Lecturer in Farm Business	University of Newcastle