

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 25 May 2018

Report from the Meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee of the University of Glasgow and The Glasgow School of Art, held on 5 March 2018

Graeme Shedden, Academic Collaborations Office

1. Remit and Membership of the Joint Liaison Committee for 2017-18

The Convener noted that Professor Barbara Ridley and Professor Paul Chapman, previously Acting Heads, had been confirmed in their positions as the Heads of the Schools of Design and Simulation & Visualisation respectively.

The Committee **agreed to recommend** the remit and membership of the Joint Liaison Committee for session 2017-18 to the Academic Standards Committee (ASC), as specified in Appendix 1.

2. GSA Growth Plans

Members discussed the expansion of student numbers which had been promoted by Glasgow School of Art (GSA) from session 2013/14 through to the current session. A target of 25% growth in enrolment from the level of the 2013/14 session had been achieved, and there were no further plans for expansion across the board. It was expected, however, that there would be additional bespoke growth in specific areas, notably the School of Simulation and Visualisation and the Innovation School.

3. Annual Report from the Glasgow School of Art for Session 2016/17

3.1 *Academic Structure of GSA: Including the Formation of the Innovation School*

The Committee was updated on the academic structure of GSA, comprising the Mackintosh School of Architecture, the Schools of Fine Art, Design and Simulation and Visualisation, and the recently inaugurated Innovation School.

The Innovation School, which had been established in September 2017, currently had an enrolment of 140 undergraduate, 60 postgraduate taught and 10-15 postgraduate research students. The School planned to expand enrolment by 40% over the next five sessions, the focus for this expansion being the GSA Highlands and Islands Campus near Forres. A number of collaborations were in place, including with UoG and Audencia Business School in Nantes. The School was also in discussion with the UoG College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences (MVLS) in relation to a proposed programme in design-led medical innovation.

3.2 *National Student Survey (NSS)*

It was observed that GSA's results in the most recent National Student Survey (NSS) had been very disappointing and improvement in student satisfaction was being treated as a priority within the institution.

3.3 *Student Voice Project; Student Experience Survey (SES); Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) and the Formalising of the Learning and Teaching Committee.*

The Student Voice Project had offered students a new means to communicate with staff separately from the GSA Students' Association (GSASA), and GSA had, in semester 1

of 2017/18, launched a standardised Student Experience Survey (SES) for all courses and programmes. The survey had been developed to mirror the structure and lexicon of the NSS, and it was hoped that having feedback in this format from the beginning of the students' studies would be very useful in focusing enhancement of the student experience. It was also noted that participation in the Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) would cease, with previously eligible students being encouraged to participate in the SES.

The class representation system had also been reorganised, with the introduction of new Lead Representative roles which allowed more effective representation at School level.

In addition, the Learning and Teaching Committee, previously an ad hoc committee convened in preparation for the ELIR, had now been consolidated and made permanent. The Committee met monthly and its formal relationship with the GSA Academic Council was under review.

3.4 Semesterisation

The process of semesterisation had largely been smooth with only minor unanticipated complications arising, although a number of staff and students had regarded the removal of a defined reading week from the calendar as detrimental. The introduction of a pause in teaching similar to a reading week would now be at the discretion of the individual Schools, subject to the approval of the Learning and Teaching Committee.

3.5 Admission Procedures

A new online PGT application system, introduced for PGT students commencing in academic year 2017/18, had been a great success, and GSA had seen a 46% increase in PGT applications since the introduction of the system. It was observed that if these numbers were to be replicated in subsequent years, the Recruitment Targets Group might be obliged to consider a procedure whereby applications could be closed prior to published deadlines when appropriate. The Committee noted that the School of Design had seen a significant increase in applicant numbers that stemmed largely from sustained recruitment work being done by GSA in East Asia, and notably in PR China.

3.6 Update on Postgraduate Taught Credit Reform

The Committee was informed that, from session 2019/20, the GSA PGT credit structure would change, from the current system of units of 15 credits to units of 10 or 20 credits. There had been divergence among the Schools as to curriculum development, particularly around the offering and delivery of electives and a strategic review of elective provision was therefore underway. It was noted that the review of electives would also impact on degrees offered in collaboration with UoG, for example the MSc International Management and Design Innovation, and that detailed discussions with UoG counterparts would therefore be required. Members heard that the PGT students studying in session 2018/19 would be the last on the existing system, and care would be taken to ensure the quality of their experience.

3.7 First Year Experience Project

It was noted that from session 2019/20 onwards, students from all disciplines would be based in the Mackintosh Building for the duration of their first year. This recalibrated first year would involve all students taking two 20 credit interdisciplinary courses, and although discipline specialisms would be retained, it was intended that the interdisciplinary experience would inform the remainder of the School-specific curricula beyond the two shared courses.

Among the challenges presented would be the integration of students articulating directly into second year, particularly in overcoming the reduced interdisciplinary experience these students might have in relation to their peers.

3.8 Estate Plans: Including Update on Mackintosh Building Restoration and Stow College Building

Members were informed that the Mackintosh Building restoration remained broadly on schedule, with a planned re-admission of students and staff from session 2019/20.

The Committee was updated regarding the status of the Stow College Building, scheduled to house the School of Fine Art from the beginning of session 2018/19. It was anticipated that the building would be occupied by staff and students by the commencement of teaching in September 2018, although construction work would require to be completed by the beginning of June 2018. The Committee was assured that contingencies were in place should the facility not be operational in time.

3.9 GSA Strategic Plan, 2018-2021

The on-going development of GSA's Strategic Plan for 2018-21 was outlined for the Committee. Following wide consultation with staff and students throughout 2017, GSA was working on a macro-plan document covering institutional ambitions for all its campuses and 'GSA's Places' (Glasgow, the Highlands and Islands, Singapore and China). This document was intended for formal approval at the June 2018 Board of Governors' meeting.

3.10 Update on the Delegation of Approval for New Programmes and Major Programme Amendments

The Committee was updated on the programme approval (validation) process that had been approved by UoG Academic Standards Committee (ASC) in May 2017. Under the new process, ASC would provide only in-principle approval for new programmes and major programme amendment proposals. Final approval for new programmes and major programme amendments would be the responsibility of the GSA Academic Council. Non-standard proposals, and those involving collaborative activity, continued to require two-stage approval from ASC.

Members were informed that the new system was working well and was helping to alleviate the pressure of meeting committee deadlines for staff at both institutions.

3.11 Enhancement-led Institutional Review (ELIR 4)

Members were informed that GSA's preparation for the ELIR was underway and that work on the Reflective Analysis documentation was progressing well. GSA planned to have their submission ready by September 2018, ahead of the provisionally scheduled review in Spring 2019.

3.12 GSA and the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF)

It was noted that GSA's involvement in the TEF would help inform their participation in next year's ELIR. One of the primary benefits of TEF participation had been the opportunity for the institution to familiarise itself with the metrics involved in ELIR. The Committee was informed that GSA had not taken a position on the utility of TEF, and not yet decided on whether they would be involved in future reviews.

3.13 Academic Appeals, Academic-Related Complaints and Academic-Related Conduct Cases

Academic appeals in session 2016/17 had remained at the same volume as the previous session. Of the ten appeals submitted, nine were grounded on information not available to the Examination Board at the time of its deliberations. Of these nine, eight had been upheld on the basis of mitigating circumstances with the other appeal having been withdrawn as the student in question had transferred to another institution. The remaining appeal was found to pertain to academic judgment, which was not permitted under the Code of Procedure for Appeals, and consequently dismissed.

Eleven academic-related complaints were logged in session 2016/17, compared to no specifically academic complaints in the previous session. The meeting noted the possibility that this increase was due to improving awareness as to logging procedures, and therefore this trend was likely to continue in the next academic session.

Eight cases relating to academic misconduct were raised in the 2016/17 session, all relating to plagiarism. Academic misconduct was found to have taken place in six of these cases, with the students in question having been required to re-submit with the grades being capped. No academic misconduct was found in the remaining two cases, and the students' grades had subsequently been referred to the Convener of the Examination Board for ratification.

3.14 Recognised Associate University Lecturers

The Committee approved the staff outlined in the GSA Annual Report as Associate University Lecturers and **resolved to recommend** them to ASC for approval, as specified in Appendix 2.

3.15 GSA Singapore Annual Report (2016/17)

The Head of the School of Design drew members' attention to the following matters of interest:

- GSA Singapore had produced its fourth graduating cohort in 2016/17, with 113 students graduating in Singapore in June 2017;
- Recruitment remained strong with a total of 110 and 107 students in years 3 and 4 respectively of the BA (Hons) Communication Design and BA (Hons) Interior Design programmes.

Graduate employability figures had been very encouraging. For the 2016 cohort, the proportion of economically active Communication Design graduates in overall employment 6 months after graduation had risen by 15 percentage points year-on-year to 91.1%, and Interior Design graduates in overall employment 6 months after graduation had risen by 9.9 percentage points year-on-year to 97.4%.

Members were advised that a definitive agreement with Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) regarding the extension of the existing collaboration had not yet been reached.

4. Student Business

The GSA Students Association (GSASA) President provided the meeting with an oral report on matters of particular interest:

Academic session 2016/17 had seen significant enhancements in student representation, including the introduction of Lead Representative roles, which was aimed at improving representation at class level, and also the consolidation of elections to these roles with that of GSASA officer elections. The GSASA President had been added to the membership of the Director's Forum, and this had further enhanced communication between the student body and the senior management of the institution.

The President had also been involved with developing a network of Student Presidents from Higher Education institutions around Scotland (The Scottish Student Presidents' Forum) and had recently co-hosted a meeting of this organisation with the UoG SRC President.

5. Visas and Immigration

Members were aware of recent reports within the sector which suggested that visa refusals had risen for larger HEIs. It was noted that this had not occurred at GSA.

6. Accreditation and Periodic Subject Review

The Committee noted that the Mackintosh School of Architecture was currently engaged in two separate accreditation exercises, one with the Architects Registration Board (ARB) and the other with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), while the School of Fine Art was preparing for a forthcoming Periodic Subject Review (PSR).

Remit, Composition and Membership of the Joint Liaison Committee 2017-18

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)	Ms Hannah May Todd
Head of School of Culture and Creative Arts (or nominee)	Professor Dimitris Eleftheriotis
Head of School of Engineering (or nominee)	Professor David Cumming
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

Deputy Director (Academic) (Vice-Convener)	Professor Ken Neil
Academic Registrar	Mrs Janet Allison
President of the Students' Association (or nominee)	Ms Laura Glennie
Head of School of Fine Art	Professor Alistair Payne
Head of School of Design	Ms Barbara Ridley
Head of Mackintosh School of Architecture	Ms Sally Stewart
Head of School of Simulation and Visualisation	Professor Paul Chapman
Head of Learning and Teaching	Professor Vicky Gunn
Head of the Innovation School	Dr Gordon Hush

In attendance

Mr Robbie Mulholland, Clerk, **(UoG)**
Mr Graeme Shedden, Minute Writer, **(UoG)**
Ms Jill Brown **(GSA)**

February 2018

Appendix 2

New members of GSA staff for consideration as Associate University Lecturers

Name	Post	Department	Qualifications
Sonia Browse	Studio Tutor	Mackintosh School of Architecture	MA in Architecture
Maria Manuela De Castro Marinho	Researcher - Environmental	Mackintosh School of Architecture	PhD in Sustainable Architecture MSc Multimedia Engineering MSc Renewable Engineering and Architecture
Lorenz Herfurth	Lecturer	School of Design	PhD in Human-Centred design, organisational studies Design: Management and Policy
Adrian Stewart	Studio Tutor	Mackintosh School of Architecture	BSc (Hons) Architecture PGT Diploma Advanced Architecture
Daniel Fradgley	Lecturer	School of Design	MA in Menswear BA Hons in Fashion Design
Marianne Anderson	Lecturer	School of Design	BA Hons in Design, Silversmithing & Jewellery HND in Jewellery & Silversmithing
Henry Rogers	Programme Leader MFA	School of Fine Art	MA in Painting BA (Hons) Drawing and Painting
Helen Kendrick	Creative Ecology Fellow	Research	MA in Architectural History BA (Hons) degree in Urban Studies
Susannah Thompson	Head of Doctoral Studies	Research	PhD in History of Art MPhil in Art and Design in Organisational Contexts MA in History of Art
Michael Johnson	Research Fellow	Research Fellow	PhD Design Innovation BDes (Hons) Product Design
James Houston	Lecturer	School of Design	BA (Hons) Visual Communication Design