

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 23 November 2018

Report from the Meeting of the Joint Board of the University of Glasgow and Christie's Education held on Tuesday, 10 April 2018

Graeme Shedden, Academic Collaborations Office

1. Christie's Education Annual Report (2016-17)

The following points were noted from the Report:

1.1 Overview

The Convener reminded members that as the validation arrangement between the two institutions had come to an end, this would be the last substantive Annual Report that Christie's (CE) would submit to the University (UoG). In accordance with a decision taken at a previous meeting of the Board, the Report had been submitted slightly later than usual to enable the inclusion of information regarding final degree outcomes and External Examiner reports for both undergraduate and MLitt/MSc programmes.

[NB - The CE Annual Monitoring Report for the final cohort (Year 2 in session 2017-18) of the MA (Hons) in History of Art and Art-world Practice at Christie's Education, was submitted to the University on 31 October 2018].

1.2 Student Experience and Performance

The CE International Managing Director reported that the organisational changes that had occurred, or been announced, at CE during the course of session 2016-17, had not impacted negatively on student performance or experience. She attributed this, in large part, to the commitment of faculty staff who, despite being affected by redundancy and restructuring, had continued to provide excellent instruction and support to students throughout the teach-out period.

1.3 Suspension of Recruitment to MLitt Programmes

The Board heard that CE's decision to suspend recruitment to its MLitt programmes had been taken against a background of declining applications to the programmes concerned and a strategic need to emphasise employability in postgraduate provision. The consolidation of CE's offering was seen as an important first step in securing the institution's future growth and development.

1.4 Teach-Out Arrangements

The Board discussed whether it was necessary to have a contingency plan in place in the event that illness or examination failure prevented any of the remaining students on the undergraduate MA History of Art and Art-World Practice programme from completing/progressing within the required time. CE's staff were of the view that this would not be necessary. They reported that the postgraduate cohort had already completed all necessary assessment requirements successfully and staff were confident that undergraduate students would do likewise.

1.5 CE Relocation

Members were advised that CE would be relocating to new premises in Portland Place, London. It was anticipated that the move would take place in September 2018.

2. Student Support

It was confirmed that special induction events which had been organised in previous sessions for CE's students proceeding to their Junior Honours year at UoG would take place again in the coming session. These students would also be invited to attend general inductions organised for other groups of new students taking History of Art courses. An academic member of staff from the History of Art Subject Area would provide mentoring support during the transition period.

3. Removal of CE Staff Details from UoG Online Staff A-Z and Closure of Access to UoG IT Systems

3.1 Removal of CE Staff Details from the University On-line Staff A-Z Directory

It was noted that details of CE's staff with Associate University Lecturer (AUL) status were recorded in the University's on-line staff A-Z directory as affiliate members of staff. Most CE's staff engaged in postgraduate teaching could be removed from the A-Z now, and those involved in undergraduate teaching would not require their affiliate status after the conclusion of this session's examinations. It was acknowledged, however, that for the time being, CE's staff must be able to address any potential queries related to student absence, late work submissions, extensions etc. The Board **agreed**, therefore, that the removal of staff details be delayed until the commencement of session 2018/19.

3.2 Closure of Access to UoG IT Systems

On the related matter of closing CE staff access to UoG IT systems, the Board **agreed** that the same timescale should apply as that which would apply to the removal of staff details from the online A-Z – i.e. that this take place at the beginning of session 2018-19. This arrangement superseded the decision taken at a previous meeting of the Board whereby it had been agreed that the University write to CE's staff as their access was removed.

4 Exit Plan

An Exit Plan had been created to allow the Board to record outstanding issues and monitor progress against these during the teach-out period. The Board **noted** that all outstanding matters in the Exit Plan had now been resolved.

5 Visas and Immigration

The Board was informed that CE had attained Highly Trusted Sponsor status from UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) in June 2017. This was likely to help CE's student recruitment efforts substantially over the coming years, although the full impact of this would probably not be known until a complete admissions cycle had taken place.

Two overseas undergraduates pursuing UoG degrees who had originally commenced at CE would continue to receive support from the UoG Tier 4 Compliance Team.

6. Conclusion of Validation Arrangement Between Christie's Education and the University of Glasgow

The Convener reminded members that, owing to the conclusion of the validation arrangement between the two institutions, this would be the final meeting of the Joint Board. The association between the two institutions dated back to 1987 when a taught Masters degree in Decorative Arts had been delivered in Glasgow in conjunction with Christie's Scotland. In the intervening years, additional UoG-validated postgraduate programmes had been added to CE's offering along with a pioneering two-centre MA undergraduate programme. This latter programme enabled students to undertake their

first two years at CE in London before completing the last two years of their degree at UoG.

CE's current provision (the new postgraduate taught MA Art History and Art World Practice and the MSc Art, Law and Business programmes) were now validated by The Open University (OU). The next graduating cohort of postgraduate taught students would be the last postgraduate students graduating under the UoG validation arrangement. The final cohort of undergraduates who would graduate with UoG degrees would enter third year of the undergraduate MA Art History and Art World Practice programme in session 2018-19 and graduate at the end of session 2019-20.

The Convener thanked CE staff for the commitment they had shown to the partnership with UoG over the years, and also Joint Board members for the support they had given to the work of the committee. He hoped that, although the validation arrangement had now come to an end, other forms of collaboration between the two institutions would continue. The International Managing Director, on behalf of CE, thanked the Convener and UoG staff for the invaluable advice and support that had been given to CE staff and students throughout the partnership.