

University of Glasgow**Academic Standards Committee – Friday 25 January 2019****Request to Extend Existing Validation Arrangement for Programmes Within the Engineering, Science and Technology Department at Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)****Dr Kyrsten E Black, Assistant Principal (HE), SRUC****Background**

SRUC launched its new Strategic Plan ([Strategic Plan](#)) for 2018-22 in May 2018. Central to the strategy is bringing together the current Education and Research Divisions and creating three new faculties, in the North, Central and South and West of Scotland. Three new regional Deans have been appointed and have been tasked by the Executive Leadership Team to collaborate in the ongoing development of a new regional structure for the organisation. There are a number of key objectives including combining research and teaching within a new model intended to further inspire students. The new Faculties will provide greater opportunities for Research staff to become involved in Education and vice versa.

The South and West Faculty has been the first to undergo review in collaboration with the Scottish Funding Council (SFC) to investigate how SRUC can serve that region of Scotland to the best of our abilities, and to expand to meet our ambitions.

The Outline Business Case in the South West looked thoroughly at the potential of all current sites to build a single, integrated campus at Barony (Dumfries) that could expand, bringing together teaching and learning, research, consultancy and community engagement.

As a result, SRUC will be instigating a phased withdrawal from our Riverside (Ayr) Campus and Crichton (Dumfries) over four years. This was not an easy decision, but it is one that SRUC are confident is in the best long-term interests of our plan to transform into a unique, 21st-century university. At the Ayr Campus SRUC will honour our commitments through a phased teach-out over the next four years. SRUC is committed to delivery of the programmes in Ayr that students have already enrolled on.

SRUC have combined the processes of Institution-led Review and revalidation of its curriculum and operates on a six-yearly cycle of review and revalidation. In the current academic year programmes within the Engineering, Science and Technology Department are scheduled to be reviewed and revalidated. SRUC will continue with the review process but given that two of the three degree programmes scheduled for revalidation are delivered at the Riverside Campus (Ayr) SRUC is seeking an extension to the existing validation arrangements to allow the strategic developments to progress so that a better informed revalidation can be progressed during academic year 2019-20.

Programmes within the Engineering, Science and Technology Department

Alongside the institution-led review of the Engineering, Science and Technology Department scheduled for February 2019, revalidation of the following programmes would normally be scheduled to occur:

- BSc Agricultural Bioscience (delivered at Riverside (Ayr))
- BSc Applied Animal Science (delivered at Edinburgh)
- BSc Renewables and Environmental Technology (delivered at Riverside (Ayr))

These programmes were last reviewed and revalidated in 2013-14 (February 2014) and the revalidated provision introduced in 2014-15. If a delay to revalidation is agreed, it is proposed that the revalidation will take place during academic year 2019-20 with revalidated programmes being introduced in 2020-21. These are the only three degree programmes in the department being reviewed.

The proposal to delay the revalidation was discussed at the Joint Liaison Committee between the University of Glasgow and SRUC and it was agreed that a proposal should come to the Academic Standards Committee.

Implications of Delay

The students currently enrolled on the three programmes will continue with their studies. No new first year degree students will be enrolled on either the BSc Agricultural Bioscience or the BSc Renewables and Environmental Technology at SRUC. However, SRUC would wish to register students on the BSc in Applied Animal Science at Edinburgh in 2019-20.

The quality implications of extending the validation of the provision have been considered but there are no significant risks associated with this delay. There have been no equality issues identified with the proposal. Currently student satisfaction (measured by NSS) is 92% for these programmes.

Action

Academic Standards Committee is requested to approve the delay, until 2019/20, of the revalidation of the three degree programmes within the Engineering, Science and Technology Department. It is noted that Institution-led review of the programmes will go ahead during the current academic year.