

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 4 October 2019

Updated Responses to the Recommendations 5 Arising from the
Periodic Subject Review of Accounting & Finance held on 3 March
2017

Mrs Catherine Omand, Senate Office

Recommendation 5

The Review Panel **recommends** that postgraduate students should be given information and support in the preparation of their research proposals at an earlier stage of the research methods course. [Paragraph 3.3.2]

For the attention of: The Head of Subject

Response – May 2018

This year, our postgraduate taught students have been provided with information to support their production of dissertation research proposals at the start of the Dissertation and Research Methods course. That course is presently underway. The programme conveners are more involved in this course this year than last and are ensuring that students are well supported in the development of their dissertation proposals.

Updated Response – May 2019

The School is in the process of creating a postgraduate advising service.

The advising service will be led by a Student Experience Manager who will also spend a proportion of their time (60% in Y1) on service design and development and performing the role of Senior Adviser, allowing us to locate the advising service in a broader student support structure.

The service will focus on bridging the 'gap' between the support that Programme Convenors and Administrators can offer in terms of capacity and training and central services provision, primarily LEADS and CaPS.

The service will be supported by two dedicated Postgraduate Student Advisers who will spend c.70% of their time in a student-facing capacity. The Advisers will be recruited on the basis of previous knowledge, training and experience.

The service proposition is currently being finalised and we can share this imminently. We expect the recruitment process to begin this month.

Updated Response: Earlier support for students in the preparation of their research proposals Head of Subject – September 2019

Students on Accounting & Finance PGT programmes who were admitted in 2018 were informed of their provisional dissertation supervisor on 21/05/2019, shortly after the completion of the summer examination diet. Supervisors had been pre-informed of their students and provided with a copy of students' research proposals. External adjunct supervisors had been appointed to their posts or contracted for the role between 17/04/2019 and 26/04/2019. One was appointed later to replace a supervisor involved in a traffic accident.

Most students' first meeting with their supervisors were between 30/05/2019 and 07/06/2019. A few supervisors arranged their first meetings in the following week, and a small number of students may have made individual arrangements later. The first meetings of students of the replacement supervisor took place on 24/06/2019.

Students who failed to meet the criteria to progress to dissertation were informed to cease work on their dissertation on 18/06/2019 immediately after the Examination Board and the release of results. Dissertation supervisors were informed at the same time to cease supervision. Students meeting the criteria after the August examination diet were informed of their new supervisor after the September Examination Board and were asked to make individual arrangements for their first meeting.

Updated Response from Subject re Advising – September 2019

The PGT Advising Service is being introduced at the beginning of the 2019/20 session and we expect that it will primarily take the form of 1:1 support to students whose support requirements exceed the capacity and expertise of programme teams (Programme Convenors, Course Coordinators, Programmes Administrators) but do not necessarily require the expertise provided by Student Services although the team will, of course, cross-refer as required. 1:1 support will be combined with the design and delivery of workshops and events that respond to key milestones in the student experience and concerns related to these. This concept is key to the design of the service – to address the perceived gap in support without duplicating other support provision.

Since the Advisers (3.0 FTE) took up their posts only in August and the Student Experience Manager joined the School on 9 September, we are not yet working from a finalised service model design template. This is deliberate to ensure that the expertise of our new colleagues – all with significant experience – help to inform the shape of the service. We also expect the service model to be fluid and agile to respond to student demand. The Advising Service will also make some provision for CoSS-wide activity in order to assess the demand for a similar service beyond the Business School.

In its first year, the Advising Service will seek to deliver a number of objectives as follows:

- Deliver high quality student support and pastoral care on a 1:1 basis and in other formats as required, accessed via self-referral and referral by relevant colleagues.
- Deliver two initiatives to students across CoSS.
- Implement a communications strategy to ensure student awareness of the service.
- Promote student engagement with the wide range of extra-curricular activities provided to allow them to maximise the Business School experience, identifying and working with colleagues to address barriers.
- Collect, analyse and report on student interaction with the Service to inform continuous improvement.