

**University of Glasgow****Academic Standards Committee – Friday 4 October 2019****Report from the Meeting of the Joint Liaison Committee of the University of Glasgow and Scotland's Rural College held on 23 November 2018**

**Robbie Mulholland, Academic Collaborations Office**

**1. Remit and Membership 2019-20**

No amendments being proposed, the Committee **agreed to recommend** the remit and membership of the Joint Liaison Committee for session 2019-20, to Academic Standards Committee (ASC) for approval as detailed in **Appendix 1**.

**2. Removal of Records of SRUC Staff Leavers from UoG Online A-Z**

The Clerk reported that the process of removing the online records of SRUC staff leavers from the UoG web pages was ongoing and was being undertaken in tandem with the removal of relevant records from another of the University of Glasgow's (UoG) validation partners. It was noted that the process was a manual exercise so it was most efficient to do both these at the one time. The Clerk would pass the Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) Registrar a list of SRUC staff members currently on the University system to check that the details held were current.

**3. BSc Veterinary Nursing Programme – Update**

The new BSc Veterinary Nursing programme had been approved by ASC in October 2017 and had commenced in September 2018. Professional accreditation was being sought from the Veterinary Nursing Department of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

At the beginning of the application process SRUC had expected that, as an established Higher Education institution, it would be deemed to be the accredited institution. However, RCVS had subsequently made it clear that it deemed UoG, as the awarding body, and not SRUC, to be the institution applying for accreditation. This had resulted in some additional unforeseen correspondence arising between SRUC/UoG and the RCVS to clarify the nature of the validation relationship between UoG and SRUC. However, this notwithstanding, the RCVS Veterinary Nursing Committee had granted UoG provisional accreditation for the programme in July 2018. The process for full accreditation of the programme would involve a range of additional quality assurance activities for SRUC that would take place as students moved through the programme towards graduation.

SRUC was very pleased with the size of the first cohort (29), especially given that provisional accreditation had been received relatively close to the programme commencement date. A cohort of approximately 40 was expected to commence in the following session (2019-20).

**4. Proposed Exchange Agreement with the University of Lincoln, New Zealand**

Work to develop an exchange agreement with the University of Lincoln, New Zealand was ongoing. The SRUC Registrar noted that although SRUC had many Erasmus agreements, students frequently had a preference for exchanges involving English-speaking countries. The climate and agricultural base in New Zealand was in some

respects similar to Scotland and it was expected that this would be an attractive feature for many students.

## 5. Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (SRUC)

SRUC's Enhancement-Led Institutional Review (ELIR) was due to take place in mid-May 2019. The draft submission, which would be submitted to the SRUC Board in December 2018 had drawn on extensive dialogue with both staff and the SRUC Student Association (SRUCSA). SRUCSA had welcomed the opportunity to participate in the preparations and considered the exercise was a good example of collaborative working between SRUC and SRUCSA.

It was noted that the review SRUC had undergone from Land-Based Colleges Aspiring to Excellence (LANDEX) in April 2018 had provided many useful pointers for ELIR. The Convener acknowledged the multi-stage nature of the ELIR process and highlighted the additional challenge of preparing for review across geographically dispersed campuses.

***[Clerk's note: LANDEX is a subscriber organisation with 36 member Colleges and Universities across the UK. To qualify for membership providers must deliver significant volumes of education and training in areas linked to land-based occupations.]***

## 6. SRUC Strategic Development

The JLC was informed that SRUC's main strategic target going forward was the acquisition of degree-awarding powers (DAP) and it viewed the outcome of the ELIR as an indicator of the institution's readiness to apply for this.

The institution had already begun to recalibrate much of its activity in anticipation of DAP and central to this was the bringing together of the current Education and Research divisions and the creation of three new faculties - in the North, Central and South West of Scotland. Three regional Deans had been appointed and they would be instrumental in taking forward the new regional structure of the organisation. SRUC's campus reorganisation would allow the amalgamation of the institution's teaching, research and consultancy functions into the same physical and organisational structures. Previously these had been administered separately with collaborative activity occurring, in general, on an ad hoc basis.

It was hoped that the new structure would allow the educational benefits of research and consultancy to transfer more readily to the institution's teaching functions and also support a model for collaborative team working both within SRUC and across Scotland. The greater exposure of the student body to research would be strengthened by a planned expansion of research activity, particularly on the northern campus. SRUC was also in the process of restructuring the institution's Academic Board in order to further strengthen academic representation.

A review of the role of student support and academic services units across the organisation was underway with a view to the possible merger of some administrative functions, while expanding the support for quality enhancement activities. Quality assurance structures were already well established and staffed, but it was felt that an added focus on enhancement was necessary in view of the intention to seek DAP. It was hoped that the administrative restructuring would be completed by the summer of 2019.

SRUC was also in the process of reviewing its estate portfolio given a significant budget shortfall associated with the maintenance costs of its sites (approximately 50 buildings) across the country. Planned amalgamation of operations in the South-West would take

place on the Dumfries (Barony) campus, along with a phased withdrawal from the Dumfries (Crichton) campus and the Ayr (Riverside) campus. The withdrawal from both campuses would take place over a four year period in order to honour commitments to current students.

A review to see what steps could be taken to further facilitate progression between the Further Education (FE) and Higher Education (HE) elements of SRUC's teaching provision was taking place. As part of this exercise, it was planned to make the governance structure of the institution more visible on all campuses in which FE provision was offered.

It was noted that SRUC regarded 2021 as the earliest date for attaining DAP.

## **7. SRUC Annual Report (2017-18)**

The SRUC Registrar introduced the SRUC Annual Report to the University for session 2017-18:

### *7.1 Postponement of Revalidation of Programmes in Engineering, Science and Technology*

The revalidation of the BSc programmes in Agricultural Bioscience, Applied Animal Science and Renewables and Environmental Technology had been scheduled to take place in February 2019. In view of the ongoing institutional reorganisation that was underway, SRUC sought a delay to the revalidation of these programmes such that the revalidation would take place during academic year 2019-20, with revalidated programmes being re-introduced in 2020-21.

SRUC considered that this extension would allow a better informed revalidation process to take place during session 2019-20, particularly given that two of the three degree programmes scheduled for revalidation were delivered at the Riverside (Ayr) campus. Validation on the new schedule would allow SRUC time to ensure that the offering and learning outcomes were as up-to-date as possible.

It was noted that a proposal to delay the revalidation of the programmes would require approval from UoG's Academic Standards Committee and a request to this effect would be submitted to the next meeting of ASC in due course.

***[Clerk's post-meeting note: The request to extend the date of revalidation for the said programmes was approved by Academic Standards Committee at its meeting on 25 January 2019.]***

### *7.2 Institution-Led Reviews (ILRs)*

Two ILRs had been completed in session 2017-18, the first one being in November 2017 for programmes within the Horticulture and Landscape Department, and the second one in February 2018 for programmes within the Agriculture and Business Management Department.

The review of Horticulture and Landscape was a follow-up to the initial ILR, as the initial review had resulted in the requirement that the department team prepare and submit a revised Self-Evaluation Document (SED). Following the submission of a much improved SED, the review was deemed to be successful. The second ILR of the academic year took place in the Agriculture and Business Management department and had a successful outcome.

The commencement of session 2018-19 saw SRUC hold its first ILR in the field of postgraduate research. Although the results of the review were not yet available, it was

considered that it had been a very productive exercise for the institution, not least in terms of preparation for the forthcoming ELIR.

Notwithstanding that SRUC would seek a delay to the revalidation for the programmes referred to above, SRUC had decided to continue with the ILR for the Engineering, Science and Technology Department which was scheduled for February 2019. It had been decided to proceed with this as planned given its potential value to ongoing ELIR preparation.

### *7.3 External Examiner*

The JLC noted the difficulties experienced with the performance of one external examiner detailed in the Annual Report. The SRUC Registrar informed the Committee that the external examiner in question had attended the appropriate meetings and performed the function of external examiner in relation to reviewing/endorsing examination results over a period of three years, but had not submitted a report within the requisite period. The SRUC Registrar assured the JLC that SRUC had done everything possible to encourage cooperation on the matter, including the withholding of the external examiner's fee. She confirmed that the situation was under review and would update the JLC at the next meeting.

### *7.4 Student Survey Results*

The JLC noted that the results of SRUC's participation in the National Student Survey (NSS) had been disappointing. The appointment of SRUC's three faculty Deans had brought additional external experience of the NSS to the institution and it was hoped that this would have a positive effect moving forward. Student participation rates had been at the highest level that SRUC had experienced albeit behind the national average. Further work to assess how teaching staff might help to enable greater participation was under way. SRUC recognised that improvement in the NSS category of 'Overall Satisfaction' was necessary and was working closely with SRUCSA to look at ways to improve outcomes.

### *7.5 Diversity*

The JLC noted recent changes in the gender balance of the SRUC student body which had seen an eight per cent swing toward female students over the course of the last four academic years. This change was largely due to the new programmes offered at the institution, with Animal Care and Veterinary Nursing having been added, applications to both of which tended to be dominated by female students. Furthermore, the Sports Coaching programme, with a largely male cohort had moved to the University of the West of Scotland. It was expected that if the Veterinary Nursing cohort expanded as was predicted over the coming years, then the trend towards female participation would become more pronounced.

The opposite trend was apparent in the Engineering, Science and Technology programmes offered by SRUC, all of which had a predominantly male enrolment. The Convener noted that these imbalances probably stemmed from traditional societal expectations around typical male/female career paths, and most likely these perceptions would need to change before a more balanced male/female cohort was apparent in certain areas of higher education.

It was noted that the Annual Report (Appendix A, Gender, Ethnicity and Disability) recorded that white students comprised nearly 93% of the student population on SRUC UoG-validated programmes in session 2017/18. The SRUC Registrar pointed out that this statistic was a reflection of the traditional rural demographic from which SRUC drew its students. It was noted that SRUC was taking steps to increase ethnic minority

participation and was exploring ways by which it could achieve this, through both marketing efforts and the introduction of contextualised admissions.

With regard to SRUC's recruitment policies for students from low-income backgrounds, it was noted that SRUC was subject to the same targets for widening participation as other Scottish HE institutions. However, many of the indicators used to assess deprivation for the purposes of widening participation were more meaningful in an urban context than compared with the rural communities from which SRUC traditionally drew many of its students. For example, assessment of the household income of rural families could be difficult when income was often seasonal and possibly irregular.

It was noted that the agricultural sector was facing a future skills shortage and that this could only be addressed by encouraging young people from non-rural areas to pursue careers in the industry. This being the case, SRUC was seeking to increasingly target recruitment in these areas. SRUC members were optimistic that SRUC, with its progressive model of encouraging entry at all levels of post-secondary education, was ideally placed to promote the wide range of career opportunities that were available in rural communities.

#### *7.6 Institutional Policies*

The SRUC Registrar observed that SRUC was created in 2012 as a result of the merger between the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and 3 partner colleges (Barony, Elmwood and Oatridge). The merger had resulted in a mixture of original SRUC policies and legacy policies from its constituent institutions being in operation for a number of years. She was pleased to report that the extensive process of consolidating and refining the institution's policies within a single document (the SRUC Education Manual) meant that there were now no legacy policies remaining.

### **8. Confirmation of New SRUC Teaching Staff as Associate University Lecturers (AULs)**

The JLC **agreed to recommend** new members of SRUC staff, as specified in **Appendix 2** to ASC for approval as Associate University Lecturers (AULs).

### **9. Report of the SRUCSA President**

The SRUCSA President, provided the meeting with an oral report on matters of current interest as follows:

- Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) had launched a new three-year healthy learning and wellbeing strategy to raise mental health awareness amongst students and staff. As part of this, SRUC had employed the character of Shady, the black dog to symbolise the institution's commitment to mental health awareness. Installations, posters and leaflets involving Shady's image had been introduced across SRUC's campuses and the SRUCSA President reported that this had met with a very positive response from students. Other health initiatives included a campaign to promote healthy lifestyle choices including the creation of Daily Mile walking routes at three of SRUC's campuses;
- SRUCSA had engaged very positively with preparatory work for the SRUC ELIR due to take place in the Spring of 2019 and the wider student population had also responded enthusiastically to this opportunity;
- SRUCSA was a participant in the National Union of Students' (NUS) gender-based violence campaign, and it was undertaking a range of activities to promote awareness of this issue on its campuses;
- Plans were in place to introduce a Safe Taxi scheme which permitted students without money to pay for locally operated taxis via SRUCSA;

- A review and update of SRUCSA's governance structures was taking place with a view to maximising its impact as the collective voice of SRUC students. In view of the changes taking place at SRUC at an institutional level, SRUCSA had considered it an appropriate time to review its own operations;
- The SRUCSA President noted that Campus Councils served as the formal channel of communication between student representatives on individual SRUC campuses and SRUCSA. SRUCSA had taken several steps to strengthen the role of Campus Councils, including giving them funding powers, up to a maximum of £300, on matters related to local Council activities, and revising the quorum of Council meetings to increase their effectiveness as representative bodies;
- The SRUCSA-SRUC Student Partnership Agreement (SPA) was under review. The Agreement which set out the ways in which both bodies worked in partnership to improve the student experience had not been reviewed for 4 years and was due for review;
- SRUCSA was reviewing its campus officer roles and considering possibly adding a third sabbatical officer to its structure;
- SRUCSA was assessing the role of Liberation Officers - student representatives each with the remit to liaise with and promote the interests of a specific under represented group within the student community. There had been a low response to the appeal for nominations to these positions and SRUCSA was examining ways by which this might be increased in future years; and
- SRUCSA was liaising with senior staff at SRUC to examine ways by which student engagement with the NSS might be improved. SRUC's response rate of 64% was considered to be reasonable compared to national averages, but given that a relatively limited number of students were eligible to take part in a given year, small additional participation in the exercise would have the potential to make a significant difference to overall performance.

## **10. Visas and Immigration**

The SRUC Registrar noted that SRUC had not been audited by the UKVI and it was anticipated that this would take place in the near future. The institution had an allowance of 75 UKVI Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) awards for overseas students per year and was very pleased with the take up rate for these.

## Joint Liaison Committee for the University of Glasgow and Scotland's Rural College

### Remit and Membership

2019-20

#### Remit

The 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) ongoing risk management and maintenance of a risk register.

#### Membership

<b>University</b>	
Clerk of Senate [Convener]	Professor Jill Morrison
Head of School of Life Sciences	Professor Simon Guild
Head of School of Veterinary Medicine	Professor Ewan Cameron
University Member (College of Medical Veterinary and Life Sciences) or SRUC Member of SRUC's Education Board (or its successor)	Professor Jim Anderson (nominee for Professor Maureen Bain, Dean of Learning & Teaching, MVLS)
University Member (Crichton Campus representative, College of Social Sciences)	Dr Donald MacLeod
Head of Academic Collaborations Office (or nominee)	Jackie McCluskey
SRC Representative (or nominee)	Charlotte Louise Green
<b>Scotland's Rural College</b>	
Principal (or nominee) [Vice Convener] <sup>1</sup>	To be confirmed <sup>2</sup>
Assistant Principal, Higher Education	Dr Kyrsten Black
Academic Development Manager, Higher Education	To be confirmed <sup>2</sup>
A student representative (SRUC Student Association Sabbatical President)	Stuart Mackenzie
<b>In Attendance</b>	
Teaching Group Managers and/or Programme Leaders, as and if required	
Academic Collaborations Manager	Robbie Mulholland
Administrative Assistant (Academic Collaborations Office)	Graeme Shedden

<sup>1</sup> Vice Principal Research attending as and when required.

<sup>2</sup> Clerk's note: SRUC has advised UoG regarding nominations for the above vacancies (July 2019). These will be considered at the November 2019 meeting of the JLC.

## New Teaching Staff

Name	Job Title	Division	Department/ Group/External Organisation	Campus Location	Primary Programm e	Secondary Programme
Heather Kerr	Lecturer	Educ.	Agriculture & Business Mgt	Ayr	Agricultural Bioscience	Agriculture
Ruth Kinninburgh	Lecturer	Educ.	Horticulture	Edinburgh	Horticulture Suite	
Opal Rowe	Lecturer	Educ.	Horticulture	Edinburgh	Horticulture Suite	
Kirsty Young	Lecturer	Educ.	Animal and Equine Dept	Barony	Veterinary Nursing	
Suzanne Kelly	Lecturer	Educ.	Animal and Equine Dept	Barony	Veterinary Nursing	
Alison McElrea	Lecturer	Educ.	Animal and Equine Dept	Barony	Veterinary Nursing	
Emma Hudson	Lecturer	Educ.	Animal and Equine Dept	Barony	Veterinary Nursing	
Julie McMorran	Lecturer	Educ.	Animal and Equine Dept	Barony	Veterinary Nursing	
Maggie Kilian	Head of Educ.		Royal Botanic Garden	RBGE	Horticulture with Plantsmanship	

## New Teaching Staff CVs

Name	Qualifications	Previous Posts
Heather Kerr	BSc (Hons) Agriculture, 2017	SRUC, Trainee Agricultural Consultant, 2018-2018 Bradley Agriculture, Assistant Dairy Person, 2018-2018 Chilwell, General Farm Worker, 2017-2017
Ruth Kinninburgh	PG Cert. in Tertiary and Higher Education (in progress) City and Guilds Level 3 Award in Education and Training, 2017 MSc in Food Security, 2016 BSc (Hons) in Horticulture, 2015	Agriculture Development Advisor, Voluntary, 2015-present Project Manager, Voluntary, 2013/2014
Opal Rowe	BSc (Hons) Horticulture, 2016 HNC Bookbinding, 2001 PG Cert. in Tertiary and Higher Education (in progress)	Urban Roots, Horticultural Tutor, 2017-2018 Private residential gardener, 2009-2016 Glasgow City Council, Gardening operative, parks department, 2009 – 2009
Kirsty Young	RCVS Registered Veterinary Nurse Postgraduate Certificate in Veterinary Education Fellow of the Higher Education Academy Teaching Qualification (FE) C24 Instructor, D32 & A1 Assessor and D34 Internal Verifier awards BVNA Certificate in Small Animal Behaviour	Started teaching as an Instructor at Barony College in 1999. Promoted to Lecturer in 2001. Teach courses from National Certificate (NC) level to BSc level. Also teach AMTRA SQP short course. Sub-section Leader in Veterinary Nursing from March 2012.



		Programme Leader from 2013 (following merger to form Scotland's Rural College; SRUC). Acting Head of Department from 2016
Suzanne Kelly	Degree of BVMS, Glasgow University, 1993 – 1998 A1 Assessor Unit NVQ, 2003 PDA award; Teaching and Learning, 2016 Full member of RCVS and BVA	Self-employed locum vet, 2010-2015 RSPCA Clinic, Carlisle, 2009-2010 Eden Vet Centre, Carlisle, 2009-2009 Craig Robinson Vets, Carlisle, 2003-2008 Morley Veterinary Centre, Taunton, 2000-2003
Alison McElrea	1st Degree: BA Professional Developing, University of Dundee, 2012 A1 Assessor Award, 2009 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Examiner for Practical OSCE's, 2008 Teaching Qualification in Further Education (TQFE), University of Dundee, 2006 C24 Instructor Training, 2004 RCVS Veterinary Nursing Qualification, 2000	East Neuk Veterinary Practice St Monans Fife, Head Nurse in Orthopaedic Referral Practice, 2000-2001 Crossriggs Veterinary Clinic, Assistant/Student VN Mixed Practice, 1986-2000
Emma Hudson	Professional Development Award, 2016 L&D11 (Internal Verification Award), 2014 A1 Assessor Award, 2010 Veterinary Nursing Level 2, 2007 Veterinary Nursing Level 2, 2006	Eden Veterinary Centre, Carlisle, Veterinary Nurse, 2009-2010 Notting Hill Veterinary Centre, Notting Hill, Head Veterinary Nurse, 2008-2009
Julie McMorran	BSc (Hons) Open – The Open University, 2013-2016 Certificate in Education – Huddersfield University, 1997-1999 Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) - qualified as an RVN in 1989 MSc Animal Welfare, Science, Ethics and Law, University of Winchester, 2018-2020	Veterinary Nursing posts, Birmingham and Carlisle, 1981 – 1993 Part time lecturer at Barony and part time at private practice in Carlisle, 1991-1993 Nine years was in private general practice, including two years as a head nurse and three years as a nurse with the RSPCA.
Maggie Kilian	MSc Education in Curriculum and Instruction of Environmental Education, 2004 Manager of Volunteers Certificate, 2001 BSc (Hons) Science in Environmental Science, 1997 Associate of Arts Degree, 1995	Head of Education, Canadian Museum of Nature, 2009-2015 Lead Specialist of Visitor Experience Learning, Parks Canada, 2006-2009 Training Specialist, Wildlife Enforcement Branch, Environment Canada, 2006 Outreach Coordinator, Let's Talk Science, 2004-2006 Youth Education Coordinator, VanDusen Botanical Garden, 2002-2004 Park Interpreter, various locations 1997-2006