



Meeting Number APC13/3  
**Confirmed**

## ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>th</sup> January 2014

- PRESENT:** Professor I. Cameron (*vice* Prof. Greenhalgh), Mr N. Clark, Dr A. Jones (*vice* Prof. D. Smith), Mr M. Jones, Mr M. Lamb, Ms J. Main, Mr R Ruthven, Mr I Stewart, Professor R Whittaker (Vice-Chair), Professor J Wilson (Chair).
- APOLOGIES:** Ms C. Hulsen, Professor D. Greenhalgh, Mr S. Laing, Professor D. Smith, Professor B. Steves, Professor V. Webster
- BY INVITATION:** Professor K. Gartland, Dr S Rate, Ms E Smith, Ms K Thomson
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr P. Woods (Secretary)

### MINUTES

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|--------|------------|---|
| 13.090 | Considered | The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting of the Academic Policy Committee (APC) held on 13th November (Doc APC13/39/1). |
| 13.091 | Resolved   | That the minutes of 13 November 2013 be confirmed as an accurate record.  |

### MATTERS ARISING

#### **Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)** (arising 13.054)

- |         |          |   |
|---------|----------|---|
| 13.093  | Reported | By Ms Thomson that the situation with HEAR was unresolved. At the previous meeting the incompatibility issues with ISIS had been reported and the Chief Information Officer was aware of the difficulties. IT Services were due to update the HEAR group at their meeting in February 2014. However she added that there were now serious concerns about the ability of ISIS to deliver HEAR. |
| 013.094 | Resolved | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the HEAR group update is circulated to APC.</li> <li>2. That potential alternatives be considered.</li> </ol>  |

#### **Strategy For Learning Implementation Progress Report** (arising 13.064)

13.095      Reported                      By Ms K Thomson that School Action Plans may not yet have been considered at School Boards.

**External Assessors** (arising 13.059)

13.096      Reported                      By Ms J Main that following the departure of Ms Bruce the issues raised were being taken up as part of the preparations for ELIR.

**APC Terms of Reference** (arising 13.060)]

13.097      Reported                      By the Chair that, similar to the above, this issue would be revisited.

**APC Sub-Committee and Working Groups**

13.098      Considered                      A review of the subcommittees and working groups of APC (**APC13/43/1**).

13.099      Reported                      By the Chair that the number of of working groups and subcommittees had been raised before at APC and this was an attempt to take stock of what was required and what could be discontinued or subsumed elsewhere.

13.100      Discussion                      Members requested that the following be added to the list:

- ❖ Feedback Enhancement Group
- ❖ Exceptions (Sub)Committee
- ❖ Learning and Teaching Subcommittee
- ❖ External Examiners Subcommittee

The latter two were part of the Senate Governance substructure. The other Groups were considered in turn:

**Admissions Subcommittee**

The group was not a formally constituted subcommittee of APC and did not appear to be active. Its position required clarification.

**Quality Enhancement Themes Working Group**

That its remit be incorporated within that of LTSC.

**Curriculum for Excellence Working Group**

That from May 2014 its remit should be incorporated within that of LTSC with CfE chair to join LTSC. To maintain external contacts, biannual events would be organised for external participants. The Learning and Teaching Subgroup (of CfE Working Group) had completed its work.

**Assessment Regulations Working Group**

The Group was due to complete work in this trimester with presentation of revised regulations to APC and Senate.

**Feedback Enhancement Working Group**

This was a University-wide group created at Senate in June 2011. Members felt that there was beneficial ongoing work and that the group should continue until the beginning of the 2014-15 academic year and be reviewed at

that point.

#### **Exceptions Committee**

This is a constituted subcommittee of APC.

#### **Staff Student International Mobility Subcommittee**

The group had not met since 2012 and was in abeyance pending the University's new Internationalisation Strategy. The remit should be subsumed within that of LTSC, where appropriate.

#### **Enterprise Education Subcommittee**

That the group be continued in the short term pending further consideration of its role in relation to Strategy for Learning action plan commitments.

#### **Learning Development Centre Subcommittee**

Ms E Smith informed members that the group was intended to be a short life working group but is still operational. It is not, however, a subcommittee of APC or LTSC and should be more properly considered as an informal cross School group.

#### **Sustainable Development Subcommittee**

The principle of sustainable development is now incorporated in the Strategy for Learning and therefore this group should be discontinued.

#### **HEAR Implementation Sub-Committee**

The work of this Group was ongoing (as noted at 13.093).

#### **External Examiners Subcommittee**

This was a long standing and fully constituted subcommittee of LTSC and was required to continue.

13.101 Resolved: That the work of the subcommittees and groups be refined as indicated in the above discussion.

#### **STRATEGY FOR LEARNING(SfL) IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME**

13.102 Considered A brief summary of progress towards completion of the action plan for implementation of the SfL (Doc APC13/40/1)

13.103 Reported By the Vice-Chair and Director of GCU LEAD, that she thanked all who had contributed to the progress report . This report contained feedback from Schools, progress to date, necessary actions identified and highlights of any challenging areas.

School SfL action plans would be brought to APC for consideration in due course.

13.104 Discussion Members were most concerned that sufficient time was allowed to embed

the principles of the SfL and to ensure this was done with requisite diligence.

The contextualisation of the SfL to subject areas (particularly relating to Health and Life Sciences) was discussed although members felt this was primarily a matter of terminology.

Students' Association members are developing a student-facing version of the SfL in order to maximise inclusiveness for the student body. This would be made available to APC members.

- 13.105 Resolved:
1. That there be a further update at the May 2014 meeting of APC.
  2. That Director GCU Lead and Students' Association (President and VP Education) discuss the format and location of a student version.

#### **UPDATE ON GGAP**

- 13.106 Considered A progress report on GGAP (Doc APC13/41/1)
- 13.107 Reported By the Vice-Chair that the report monitored the progress towards the objectives of the GGAP project, as agreed by the Scottish Funding Council, as a condition of the project funding. There was clear linkage with College Connect Strategy and the action plans presented here dovetailed. The current action plan covered the period up to and including 2015-16.
- 13.108 Discussion The Vice Chair informed members that the additional funded places were being managed in the Schools.
- Some members raised concerns around Associate Student status and library access. Mr Ruthven assured members that any articulating student accepted on the scheme would have full access.
- 13.109 Resolved: That the report is welcomed.

#### **COLLEGE CONNECT**

- 13.110 Considered The College Connect Strategy 2013-20 (Doc APC13/42/1).
- 13.111 Reported By the Vice-Chair that the new articulation strategy aimed to enhance the student experience of articulating students. There had been broad consultation and positive feedback from college partners and the Scottish Funding Council. The strategy would be launched on 27 January and dissemination events would take place thereafter. As stated above, the College Connect action plan harmonised with that of GGAP.
- 13.112 Resolved: That the strategy be approved.

#### **SHLS – REINSTATEMENT OF PROGRAMME**

- 13.113 Approved Rationale to support the Reinstatement of PgD Community Nursing (Specialist Practitioner Qualification Community Nursing in the Home/ District Nursing) (Doc APC13/44/1)

#### **GSBS - PROGRAMME CONCEPT PAPER<sup>1</sup>**

- 13.114 Approved A concept paper for MSc Business Continuity and Crisis Management (Doc.

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<sup>1</sup> The chair was taken by Prof. Whittaker (APC vice chair) for this item.

APC13/45/1).

**GSBS - ACADEMIC CASE<sup>2</sup>**

13.115      Approved                      An academic case from Glasgow School *for* Business and Society for new joint BA (Hons) Economics programme; LLB (Hons) with Risk; BA (Hons) Risk and Law. (Doc APC13/48/1)

**SEBE - PROGRAMME CONCEPT PAPERS**

13.116      Approved                      Concept papers for two programmes:      MSc Advanced Internetwork Engineering and MSc Broadcast Technology (Doc. APC13/46/1).

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

BA Social Science<sup>3</sup>

13.117      Reported:                      By the Students' Association VP Education that there had been some concern raised about the wider implications of portfolio refresh for this programme and of communication with students on that programme.

13.118      Reported:                      By the Executive Dean GSBS that this was not a matter that was within the remit of APC and it was not normal University practice to issue specific communications regarding a particular programme where there was no impact on current students. However he stated that he would be happy to discuss the matter further at a separate meeting with the Students' Association members and relevant academic colleagues.

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<sup>2</sup> The chair was taken by Prof. Whittaker (APC vice chair) for this item.

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