

Report from the Special meeting of Senate held on 27th January 2017

1. PORFOLIO 2020 - RESPONSE TO MATTERS RAISED REGARDING THE WITHDRAWAL OF GSBS PROGRAMMES

Following's Senate decision at its December meeting to defer consideration of the GSBS Portfolio Review 2020 proposals, constructive discussions with colleagues in the School and City of Glasgow College about the issues that had been raised, had taken place.

Discussions with the City of Glasgow College regarding the withdrawal of the BA/BA (Hons) International Retail Management, had resulted in clarification that sixteen City of Glasgow College students would have been eligible to apply for this programme. However, the University offered 3 suitable alternative programmes, and a 20 credit optional module in retail management would be available. On this basis, City of Glasgow College colleagues expressed support for the programme closure.

In discussions regarding the withdrawal of the programmes within the economics suite, it had been confirmed with economics colleagues that economics modules would be delivered at levels, 1, 2, 3 and 4 (a mix of core and optional). Further connectivity with the research agenda of staff, particularly around the research within WISE that sought to inform and influence the Scottish Government's economic policy should be developed. Programme staff had acknowledged that the current portfolio was not appropriate and they were reassured that there was the opportunity, as with all disciplines, to bring forward a proposal for a new economics programmes that was differentiated, had clear market demand, was coherent with the overall portfolio and underpinned by economics research.

In order to ensure appropriate support for the small number of existing students on the economics suite, it was proposed to meet with each of them individually and develop personalised study plans.

Analysis of applications had confirmed that there was no demand for the economics suite in its current format. It was noted that the entry tariff was the lowest within the GSBS portfolio, however this had not been successful in attracting students. Additionally, there were very low numbers of applications from MD20/40 applicants, so it was considered that withdrawal of the suite would not have an adverse impact on widening access.

As required, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) covering all the proposed withdrawals had been prepared. The Dean advised that the process had been very helpful and had resulted in a more holistic consideration of the proposals, an enhanced understanding of the creation and use of EIA as a working document and a better understanding of E&D issues within the School. As a result, the School had made revisions to its Equality and Diversity Committee, and would continue to develop the EIA as a living document. As the suite had only a small number of students, there was limited data available, but this data supported the view that the withdrawal of the programmes would not have a negative impact on students or staff with protected characteristics.

Student representatives noted the positive work undertaken and the lessons learned by the School, however expressed concern that it was still proposed to withdraw the economics suite before a replacement economics programme was in place. On this basis they did not support the proposal to withdraw the economics suite of programmes.

It was reiterated that the current suite of programmes would be taught out, during which period academic colleagues would have the opportunity to develop a proposal for a new programme based on data demonstrating clear demand. It was essential that any new programme was viable and would offer an appropriate student experience.

The DVC (Academic) acknowledged that the process had highlighted the need for improved communication with students, staff and partner institutions, adding that the valuable lessons learned would be applied in the future across all Schools.

The Principal advised Senate of the need for all universities to evolve and be innovative in refreshing their portfolios. The SFC and Government were keen for universities to work collaboratively with each other and this provided an opportunity for GCU and other west of Scotland HEIs.

Senate approved the withdrawal of the following programmes:-

Undergraduate Programme

P02744 BA/BA (Hons) Economics and Finance
P02742 BA/BA (Hons) Economics and Law
P02743 BA/BA (Hons) Economics and Risk
P02699 BA/BA (Hons) International Business and Economics
P02613 BA/BA (Hons) Int Business and Hospitality Management 2+2
P02698 BA/BA (Hons) International Business and Law
P02703 BA/BA (Hons) International Retail Management 2+2
P02695 BA/BA (Hons) Management & Enterprise 2+2
P02751 BA/BA (Hons) Risk and Law
P02707 BA/BA (Hons) Social Sciences and Media 2+2

Postgraduate Programme

P02567 MA Creative and Cultural Business
P02582 MA International Multimedia Communication
P02856 MSc Accounting and Finance (Islamic Finance)
P02799 MSc Business Resilience and Crisis Management
P02560 MSc Digital Marketing
P02570 MSc International Sport Management
P02853 MSc Risk Management (Oil and Gas)