



Meeting: **FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
LEARNING, TEACHING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time: **Wednesday 17th March 2021 at 14.15**

Venue: **Via Teams**

Present: Dr N Gjersoe, Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching), (Chair)
Dr A Bush, Department for Health
Dr G Forey, Department of Education
Prof R Joiner, Department of Psychology
Dr P Manning, Department of Social and Policy Sciences
Dr A Mondon, Department of Politics, Languages and International
Studies
Dr K Papps, MRes
Dr A Schaeffer, Department of Economics
Miss A Snary, Student
Miss N Singh, Student

In Attendance: Miss S E Jacobs, Assistant Registrar (Secretary)
Mr M Ashdown, Projects Manager
Dr R Eaton, Curriculum Development Manager (for minute 1879a)
Mrs G Eggleston, Assistant Director, Academic Registry (for minute
1879a)
Dr B Frost, Curriculum Development Officer (for minute 1879a)
Dr S McIntosh, Department of Education (for minute 1879b))
Mrs A Theilgaard, Student Engagement Manager
Mrs E Whittleton, Programmes Manager

Apologies: Dr F Bisset., Learning Partnerships Office
Miss M Clutterbuck, Learning Partnerships Office
Mr E Feddon, Student
Mr F Masala, Students' Union President

ACTION

1875. MINUTES
The Committee approved the minutes of the Faculty Learning, Teaching and Quality Committee meeting held on the 3rd February 2021 (Paper 51).

1876. MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting minutes.

1877. **CHAIR'S BUSINESS**
- a) **Student Engagement Monitoring Pilot**
 The Committee noted that the Programmes Administration team had provided useful feedback on the operation of this pilot. It was also noted that some of the units identified for the pilot are not appropriate because they do not require Moodle engagement on a weekly basis. Directors of Teaching are asked to review which units have been identified for this process.
- b) **NSS Response Rates and Explanations to Students**
 The Committee noted that the response rates are looking good so far this year.
- c) **Possible post-Easter Semester Delivery of Teaching**
 The Committee noted that it is now looking more likely that students will be returning to campus for teaching after Easter and therefore that Departments should continue to plan how they will deliver the last few weeks of teaching this semester.
- d) **Study Intentions Data Collection**
 The Chair reported that the SAMIS platform on which students were previously requested to indicate their study intention still exists but that it may be more effective for departments to gather the information themselves (e.g. via Moodle registration).
- e) **Scaling and Grade Inflation**
 The Chair informed the Committee that at the recent Education, Quality and Standards Committee it was noted that students can be confused about the reasons for and explanations given for scaling actions. The Chair also indicated that she would like to consider this further at the next Faculty Resilient Curriculum Planning Group meeting.
- f) **New students**
 The Chair commented that new students in 2021/22 will have experienced two years of disrupted education before coming to University. This means that there may be even more need than in the past to help with the transition to higher education. Discussions are currently underway to identify what support will be needed, and where this can be provided centrally and where it will need to be provided by academic departments.
1878. **STUDENT BUSINESS**
 Miss Snary asked if it would be possible to receive details of the number of students who indicated that they would defer any Semester 1 examination to the supplementary assessment period, and what their reasons for this were. The Chair noted that the SU President will have access to the information which was presented to the recent EQSC meeting and therefore that it would be useful to better understand what further information is sought, and for what reason.
1879. **FUTURE SCANNING (Standing item)**
- a) **Scenario Planning for 2021/22 and Beyond**
- i **Commercial in Confidence**
Academic Framework

DoTs

NG

AS

This item is not available for publication due to the commercial nature of the discussion Georgina Eggleston, Robert Eaton and Briony Frost attended the meeting for this item to provide an opportunity for members to answer any questions they had in relation to the proposed academic framework document which would be considered by Senate in April. Mrs Eggleston explained that it would be useful to know if the proposals included any barriers to the proposed CT work within departments. It was also noted that the assessment regulations will be based on the current NFAAR, but with appropriate simplifications and that the document proposed to Senate will include this.

ii Academic Year 2021/22 spreadsheet

The Chair noted that there is concern with regard to the proposal that lectures should be limited to a maximum of 80 students.

Dr Eaton explained that the RCPT guidance includes flexibility for departments to decide what is appropriate for them. The Committee noted that the suggestion that the number of students in a lecture is limited has been made based on an assumption that larger lectures are used for one-way transmission of information with little student engagement. Members of the Committee commented, however, that this may not always be the case. It was agreed that student engagement and interaction in large lectures should be highlighted in any rationale against the suggested limit.

Dr Frost indicated that she is happy to discuss with departments how lectures can be planned to be more interactive and dynamic. It was also noted that the Instructional Designers would be useful in any discussion about changes in delivery methods and the tools which are available to facilitate this.

b) Decolonising the Curriculum

Dr Shona McIntosh, member of DECKNO, attended the meeting for this item. The Committee noted that Dr McIntosh is a member of this new Centre, which began with an open call to attend a gathering in the Chancellors' Building in October 2019. Dr McIntosh explained the origins of the new Centre, some of the background to its activities and how the issues being discussed are relevant to activities within departments where there is a desire to decolonise their curriculum as part of the work relating to Curriculum Transformation.

Dr McIntosh explained to the Committee that decolonising the curriculum, or the wider decolonising of knowledge, should be a reflective and analytical exercise which can be undertaken by the individual and at departmental level, and can equally consider research, pedagogy, administration practices, management practices, and materials used. Dr McIntosh suggested that we should also consider how to make room for other ways of knowing and this can be a deep, transformative and positive process.

Dr Frost noted that there are some prompts on the CLT web page which can help people start to make changes within the curriculum.

The Chair suggested that it might be useful to identify one person in a department to consider what guidance and support is available, and to make suggestions for action.

Dr McIntosh agreed to provide some notes with links to sources of information and guidance for circulation to Committee members after the meeting.

SM/SJ

1880. UNIT AND PROGRAMME CHANGES FOR 2021/22

a) Department of Economics

i The Committee considered and approved (subject to clarification of a query relating to the new % weightings of coursework after the meeting) a proposal to change the assessment of [ES50156 Practice Track](#).

ii The Committee considered and approved a proposal to change the method of assessment for all undergraduate and postgraduate units.

- Undergraduate units (paper 53a and b)

The Committee noted that there was a clear rationale for the changes to the assessment of units and that all Directors of Studies, External Examiners and students had been consulted.

- Postgraduate units (paper 53c and d)

The Committee commented that there was also a clear rationale for the proposed changes and that it was appropriate to reduce the amount of assessment falling at the end of each semester.

b) Department for Health

The Committee considered the following changes to the MSc Research in Health Practice (paper 54), for implementation in 2021/22:

- Replacement of all compulsory units that were unique to the MSc with those units that already exist on the DHealth.
- Removal of all optional units that are unique to the MSc programme (due to low numbers of students and rarely running).
- Confirming that all work will now be marked solely against the M-level and D-level units on the DHealth programme, producing a much clearer, streamlined route.
- Introduction of a new 18-credit 'MSc Research in Health Practice Extended Essay' unit (replacing the old 30-credit Dissertation) for those students who have gained 72 credits (from Phases One and Two of the DHealth programme) but who then either fail the transfer interview, or who successfully transfer but subsequently decide to exit early, potentially with an MSc.

The Committee approved the proposed changes, subject to final sign-off by the Chair after the meeting.

c) Department of Social and Policy Sciences

The Committee considered and approved the following proposed changes:

Suspension of [SP30264 Understanding Religion in the Contemporary World](#)

Dr Manning confirmed that the Department would like to reintroduce the unit in the future when member of staff is able to teach again.

Suspension of [SP30310 The Developmental State](#)

The Committee noted that there was no indication of any consultation with students or external examiners about the suspension of this unit. However, Dr Manning confirmed that the proposed suspension of this optional unit

related to staffing issues alongside a marked reduction in student numbers for the unit in recent years.

Addition of [SP20344](#) as an option to all programmes listed. The Committee noted that the changes were yet to be completed in CMIS for all programmes.

Commercial in Confidence

1881. STUDENT ASSESSMENT OFFENCES, 2019/20

The Committee considered a summary report on student assessment offences investigated at department and Faculty level during 2019/20 (paper 55).

1882. ANNUAL PROGRAMME MONITORING (LPO PROGRAMMES)

The Committee noted the 2019/20 Annual Report for the MSc Applied Economics (Financial Markets and Banking), delivered on-line via Wiley (paper 56).

1883. UNIT AND PROGRAMME CHANGES

The Committee noted the following changes approved by Chair's action for implementation in 2020/21, and minor Unit changes approved at Department level:

a) Department of Economics

Minor change to the content of [ES30033 International Trade](#).

b) Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies

- New unit: [Intercultural Awareness and the Year Abroad](#)
- Withdrawal of unit: [PL20726](#) European Integration
- Withdrawal of unit: [PL20963](#) Doing Research in Humanities

Changes to the structure of programmes:

- removal of [PL20726](#) & [PL20963](#)
- Move to S1 of [PL20424](#) & [PL20724](#)
- Addition of [PL20724](#) & [PL20878](#) as options
- Addition of new unit [U13124](#) (Intercultural Awareness and the Year Abroad) as compulsory unit in S2

[BA Modern Languages \(Spanish\)](#)

[BA Modern Languages \(German\)](#)

[BA Modern Languages \(French\)](#)

[BSc Politics and International Relations](#)

[BSc Politics with Economics](#)

[BSc International Politics and Modern Languages](#)

[The Committee noted that there are issues with the programme structures for this programme in CMIS, and there are programme variants currently missing. This will be sorted in due course].

The following **minor unit** changes for implementation in 2021/22:

- Change to Assessment: [PL30568](#) The Politics of Democracy and Development in Latin America
- Change to Assessment: [PL30888](#) Rebellion and utopia in Latin American popular struggles
- Change to Assessment: [PL20969](#) Advanced International Relations

- c) **Department of Psychology**
Change to assessment for [PS50193](#).
- d) **Department of Social and Policy Sciences**
Removal of pre-requisite for [SP30288 Lobbying, Policy Communications and Democracy](#)
1884. **FACULTY COMMITTEES**
The Committee received the minutes of the following departmental learning, teaching and quality committee:
- Department of Social and Policy Sciences, 3.2.21 (paper 57)
1885. **NEXT MEETING**
The Committee noted that the next planned meeting is on the 5th May 2021.