DRAFT

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Senate

Minute of Meeting held on Thursday 17 April 2008 in the Senate Room

Present: Sir Muir Russell, in the Chair

Allison I, Arnold J, Ashworth S, Atkinson J, Batchelor S, Berry C, Berry R, Briggs J, Caie G, Campbell S, Caughie J, Cawley S, Chapman J, Conroy J, Coton F, Cox T, Coyle J, Danbolt J, Dickson H, Doris M, Drysdale T, Fearn D, Fischbacher M, Forrest D, Geraghty C, Greig M, Gusterson B, Hagan P, Hay G, Hazlett I, Heddon D, Hendry M, Hoey T, Hough C, Huggett J, Jackson S D, Jamieson S, Jeanrond W, Jenkins A, Johnson N P, Juster N, Lee G, Lee M, Long A, Neil D, Martin L, MacAulay V, MacAulay M, MacIntosh R, MacMahon M K C, McCluskey R, McQueen I, McVitie S, Menter I, Milner M, Moignard E, Moore D, Munck T, Nash A, Nixon W, Nolan A, O'Shea V, Paloni A, Peacock N, Philo C, Pittock M, Rieger A, Saxon D, Scullion A, Sharp J, Smith D, Smith L, Steel C, Stewart S, Strachan I, Strickland D, Sweeney W, Taylor A C, Torsney B, Trevisan F, Watt D, Webb G, Weetman P, Welland R C, Wightwick J, Willsdon C, Wilson M, Yarwood S.

In attendance:

Aitken J H.

SEN/2007/42. Emeritus Professor Ian McIntyre

Senate stood in silence to mark its respect for Emeritus Professor Ian McIntyre, whose death on 20 March had been announced. Professor McIntyre had been appointed Head of the Department of Veterinary Medicine in 1951 and Professor of Veterinary Medicine in 1961. He served as Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine from 1974-77.

SEN/2007/43. Minute of the meeting held on Thursday 7 February 2008 (SEN07/039)

The minute of the meeting held on 7 February 2008 was approved.

SEN/2007/44. Matters Arising

SEN/2007/44.1. Student Lifecycle Project (Item SEN/2007/36.3.refers)

An update for Senate on the Lifecycle Project would be provided at the meeting on 5 June 2008.

SEN/2007/44.2. National Student Survey Update (NSS) (Item SEN/2007/36.5 refers)

The Principal reported that the University was doing very well in the NSS, with a current response rate of 70.6%, one of the highest in the UK and c. 10% more than the average for all institutions starting the survey at the same point. The University had overtaken its final response rates for 2006 and 2007 (68.56% and

64.13%, respectively). More than 20 subjects had exceeded the GU average, and a number of these had secured response rates of over 90%.

At present, The University had publishable results in 39 subject areas and it was hoped that a further one or two subjects would achieve the thresholds before the close of the Survey. In 2007, we had publishable results in 34 subjects.

A key influence on response rates was staff encouragement to students, and the Principal thanked the Deans, Heads of Department and teaching staff for their efforts. The contribution of SRC had also played a crucial role; without their efforts, the levels of response attained would not have been reached. The Principal also thanked SRC colleagues for their hard work.

The Survey would close at the end of April. The final response rate would be reported to Senate in June. Subjects where just one or two more responses would take a subject to the threshold for publication had been signalled to the relevant Deans.

The NSS provided a highly important source of feedback form students, and the University would continue to learn from NSS outcomes.

The detailed results would be received during August.

SEN/2007/44.3. Constitution of Centre for Studies in Faith, Culture and Education (Item SEN/2007/38.1. refers)

The University Court had approved the constitution for the Centre for Studies in Faith, Culture and Education. Following a question at the Court meeting, the Clerk of Senate had confirmed that there had been consultation between the Centre and the Department of Theology & Religious Studies.

SEN/2007/44.4. Dates of Session (Item SEN/2007/39 refers)

The Court had approved the proposed dates of session for 2008-09 and provisional dates for 2009-10 as endorsed by Senate in February.

SEN/2007/45. Rectorial Election: Minute of the meeting of Senate held on Wednesday 27 February 2008 (SEN07/040)

The minute of the meeting of Senate held on 27 February 2008 to receive the result of the Rectorial Election was approved, subject to correction of the sederunt.

Senate noted that the election had been the first such event in the University involving electronic voting. A total of 5108 votes had been polled, an increase of over 2 ½ times the vote at the previous election. The Principal congratulated all those who had been involved for their contributions to what had been widely judged to be a very successful exercise. Mr Kennedy, the new Rector, had been installed at a ceremony in the Bute Hall on 10 April. This had also been a very positive event, and the Principal congratulated the SRC on its successful organisation of the proceedings.

SEN/2007/46. University Court: Communications from the meeting held on Wednesday 13 February 2008 (SEN07/041)

The communications from the University Court meeting on 13 February 2008 were noted.

SEN/2007/46.1. Draft Ordinance on Dormant Endowments

The Clerk of Senate reported on the recent consultation of Senate by the Court on a draft ordinance concerning dormant endowments. Endowments became 'dormant' when it was no longer possible to comply with the terms in which they were made out to the University. Approximately £4M of the University's endowment assets were in this category and could not currently be put to any use other than that of gathering interest.

In December 2007, Court had agreed to seek Privy Council approval to a new Ordinance that would allow the University to take action to unfreeze dormant funds. Draft ordinances were the subject of consultation with members of Senate, and the consultation process had identified a concern that Court might use the powers conferred by the Ordinance to alter the use of endowment funds where the revenue stream in any one year had not been fully used for the intended purpose. In response to these concerns, Court was providing the following advice to respondents:

a that Court's sole interest in requesting a new Ordinance is to allow the University to benefit from endowment income that it is currently unable to use - i.e. where the original purposes are now 'wholly or partially inoperative';

b that Court will not agree to alter the use of endowment funds where they can continue to be used in accordance with the intentions of the benefactor; and

c that, should the Ordinance be approved by the Privy Council, any proposal to make use of dormant endowment funds will require the specific approval of Court, and that Court will ensure that any department with a specific interest in the terms of the endowment should have the opportunity, before Court comes to its decision, to comment on the proposed alternative use.

Disposal by Senate: ***Noted.***

SEN/2007/47. Convener's Business

The Principal spoke to his report on recent developments concerning the University.

SEN/2007/47.1 Principal's Report (SEN07/042)

SEN/2007/47.1.1. Scottish Funding Council Grant Allocations 2008-09

On 19 March, the Scottish Funding Council had announced the higher education grant settlement for the year commencing 1 August 2008. Senate was provided with a summary of institutional allocations. 2008/09 would be a difficult year financially for the Scottish universities. They were committed to fund the costs of a UK-wide national salary award but would not have the benefit of the additional top-up fees that would be flowing to institutions elsewhere in the UK.

In that context, an average grant uplift of 3.4% was better than the Scottish higher education sector had been led to expect, and it had been supplemented by the distribution of an additional £10M secured for higher education by the Cabinet Secretary, from which Glasgow would receive £1.5M. Within the University, plans had been based on a grant uplift of just 2.5%, and so a grant increase of 3.7%, which was a little better than the Scottish average, was welcome.

Underlying Glasgow's overall position was a better-than-average increase for Teaching and a poorer-than-average increase for Research. The University's Teaching allocation was up by 3.3%, compared with the Scottish average of

2.7%. We had benefited from some additional funding for Teacher Education and for the Crichton Campus, to which the Funding Council had allocated an additional 64 funded student places. The University's Research allocation was up by just 4.5%, compared with an average of 5.9%. The main reason for this was that charitable research income, which is a driver of the SFC funding formula, had registered a drop, which may be attributable to the completion of major projects. GU had, however, seen healthy and above-average increases in the elements of the research allocation that reflect research student numbers (up 11%) and Knowledge Transfer activity (up 23%).

Not yet included in these figures was the additional infrastructure funding that the Scottish Government has pledged to help sustain the Crichton Campus. It was anticipated that a letter on that matter would be received shortly. This would include provision for infrastructural cost transfer to the University of the West of Scotland (UWS). There had been much discussion with UWS on this and the new responsibilities they would assume. The Library was a key topic in this regard.

Senate noted that the Chief Executive of the Funding Council, Mr Roger McClure, had recently announced that he will be leaving the Council at the end of April.

In response to a query, the Principal confirmed that the University was not seeking to recruit overseas students at the cost of home-based applicants.

SEN/2007/47.1.2. HE Future Thinking Taskforce

The Principal was co-chairing the HE Future Thinking Taskforce with the Cabinet Secretary, Ms Fiona Hyslop. Early discussions by the Group had been reported widely in the media.

The Taskforce's remit was to consider:

- How to optimise and shape the contribution which the Scottish university sector can make during the next 20 years to the Scottish economy, to Scottish culture and society, and to the political priorities of the Scottish Government.
- What opportunities can be created and what barriers will need to be overcome to achieve that.
- What resources will be needed and how they will be provided.

The associated framework necessary for this was under discussion. A likely feature was an increase in tripartite discussions between the sector, Scottish Funding Council (SFC) and Government. This would provide the opportunity for the sector to engage directly with Government. The Funding Council would not disappear: it would continue to ensure objectivity and act as a buffer between government and the sector, but would be less managerially interventionist than in the past. Mr John McClelland, Chair of the SFC, was involved in the Future Thinking Group. A key objective was to demonstrate the role and needs of the sector to Government. Issues here included the increase in UK and international competition. It was also essential to ensure that initiatives were properly resourced. Discussions were also considering how Government could assist with internationalisation, employability and intellectual property issues. There had been good input from student representative groups (including the University SRC). The next meeting would involve the Trade Unions.

In response to a question, the Principal confirmed that it was being emphasised to politicians participating in the talks that the benefits of higher education were not confined to universities' economic contributions.

SEN/2007/47.1.3. Senior Management Group Strategic Review

At an away-day in March, the Senior Management Group had reviewed the University's strategic direction and affirmed the commitment to drive towards a place in the world's top 50. The Management Group remained committed to its ambitious goals for the University and had identified three areas: student recruitment, performance management and systems improvement, as requiring strong management focus in the months ahead. Specifically:

1. SMG confirmed its support for the 2006 strategy in Building on Excellence, emphasising in particular the commitments to research and teaching excellence and internationalisation.
2. SMG recognised the present high level of achievement by the University, which provides a sound base for further improvement; and wanted to pay tribute to those who had contributed to this.
3. SMG remains committed to the main objectives that the university should be in the top 10 of the UK and the top 50 of the world.
4. SMG identified the particular importance of 3 mission critical policies on which action is under way: student recruitment, performance management and systems improvement; and agreed that these required urgent drive and support.
5. SMG resolved to take ownership of the delivery of the strategy in a number of ways:-
    - By adopting a new set of values, taking account of and influencing those in the wider university, for the way it works together.
    - By handling its own business differently, to provide time to develop strategic thinking and shared understanding.
    - By each member being committed to making the goals of the university happen.
    - By promoting communication at all levels about the role of individuals and what they are expected to contribute.

6. SMG agreed that these conclusions would be driven forward in a number of small groups, with a tight timetable and clear requirements to report to SMG.

SEN/2007/47.1.4 Research Fortnight Rankings

Senate was pleased to hear that a recent edition of *Research Fortnight* had ranked the University eighth in the UK for 2007, with the highest national increase in research income since the previous year, when the University had been ranked 16th.

SEN/2007/47.1.5. 'Ivy League' Lectures at Columbia University

Five members of the University of Glasgow had been invited to give a series of lectures at Columbia University in New York: Professors Andrew Briggs, Anna Dominiczak, Ian Ford, Godfrey Smith and Carol Tannahill. The focus was public health and the study of heart disease. It was extremely rare for five members of one institution to be invited to speak at an Ivy League university. The lectures had been receiving good coverage in the New York press.

SEN/2007/47.1.6. Other Senior Management Group business

Other matters discussed at the last two meetings of SMG have been:

- - RAE 2008 - lessons learned
- - Risk management and risk policy
- - Monthly income and expenditure reports

SEN/2007/48. Clerk of Senate's Business

SEN/2007/48.1. Honorary Degrees Committee Report

The Clerk of senate provided details of honorary graduands receiving degrees in the summer, as follows:-

COMMEMORATION DAY – Wednesday, 18 June

Professor David Breeze

Professor John Haldane

Dr Betsy Nabel

Dr Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw

Mr John Greig

Mr Jim McColl

Mr Billy McNeill

Ms Elaine C Smith

THE GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART GRADUATION – Friday, 20 June

Professor Andrew MacMillan

Professor Isi Metzstein

FACULTY GRADUATIONS

Friday, 27 June at 4.00pm

Professor Jackie Kay

Ms Denise Mina

Monday, 30 June at 11.00am

Dr Ian Sword

Tuesday, 1 July at 11.00am

Dr Derek Chalmers

Wednesday, 2 July at 11.00am

Professor Judith Whitworth

Thursday, 3 July at 11.00am

Dr Ian Nussey

SEN/2007/49. University Finance Presentation: Mr Robert Fraser, Director of Finance

Senate received a presentation from Mr Robert Fraser, Director of Finance, on the University's annual accounts for 2006-07.

Mr Fraser reported that the University's financial position had been strengthened very considerably over the last year. This was demonstrated by the range of key financial measures. An operating surplus of £6.3M had been achieved, up £4.3M on the 2006 outcome, and £5.7M greater than had been forecast. This was very important, as it meant that additional funds were available for investment, enabling the University to develop further. Similar good results had been achieved with respect to the historical cost surplus figures and for net funds, with a £25.9M year-on-year improvement being returned for cash and deposits. Net assets also demonstrated improvement, with a £31.5M increase to £522.4M, taking into account an increase of £1.4M liability for the University's clerical and technical staff pension scheme. The latter also impacted on the figures for general reserves which, nonetheless, still showed a £20.7M increase, to £33.2M. There had been concern that the previous figure was too low for financial good health. Mr Fraser also provided figures showing the University's operating surplus/deficit position annually since 1993-94. These showed deficits each year from 1994-95 until 2004-05, with surpluses being returned in 2005-06 and 2006-07. It had also been important to reverse the pattern of annual deficits, as this had meant that funds for investment were very limited. There was a compounding effect on the University's performance and ability to compete when such funds were not available. The target for 2007-08 and thereafter was an annual surplus of £4M. This was a balanced figure, reflecting the tension between the needs for prudent financial management and for investment and rebuilding.

Mr Fraser concluded with information on the financial outlook. 2008-09 would be challenging: pension costs were again expected to increase and there would be a reduction in VAT recovery. Building inflation was notably high, at 7% p.a., but the biggest factor was wage and salary inflation, at 7.7%, producing an increase of £15M in associated costs. These figures had to be considered in the context of an SFC funding increase of just 2.5% (£4M). The disappointing grant settlement meant that the coming year would be very testing for the whole Scottish sector, but the University was now relatively better placed to face the associated difficulties.

In discussion, it was noted that, while the large-scale of the current building programme incurred the effects of the high level of inflation, it was vital to invest to produce sustained growth and competitiveness. It was also pointed out that a recent press report had described the University's borrowing figure as very low. Responding, Mr Fraser said that the current low figure had been preceded by a number of years of relatively heavy borrowing; control and a balance were necessary. The Principal also noted that the University was presently compiling ideas and resources in anticipation of the possible acquisition of the Western Infirmary site. This was presently scheduled for disposal by the Health Board as part of its long-term plans for the consolidation of hospital services. There would be an increase in borrowing following University purchase of the site.

Senate welcomed Mr Fraser's presentation, which would now feature annually on the agenda, as one of the outcomes of the review of Senate operations in 2007.

SEN/2007/50. Academic Structures Update: Professor David Watt, Convener, Academic Structures Implementation Group (SEN07/043)

Senate received an update on plans and activities concerned with the introduction of the new Academic Year and associated structural changes from Professor David Watt, Convener of the Academic Structures Implementation Group.

The Academic Structures Implementation Group (ASIG - www.gla.ac.uk/projects/asig/) had been formed in February 2007. Its basic remit was to drive implementation of the academic structures reforms following their approval by Senate in November 2006. Its membership was drawn from all faculties, HR, MIS, Registry, Senate Office, and SRC.

The Group had initially agreed an implementation plan, and now regularly monitored progress against the plan (www.gla.ac.uk/media/media_46560_en.pdf).

Professor Watt reported that, overall, progress so far was very encouraging.

Courses & Programmes

All faculties and departments had taken the steps necessary to shorten 12-week courses to 11 weeks in time for 2008-09. Work was also proceeding to adjust courses to standard sizes (credit values). In particular, departments with 120-credit honours courses were actively planning to decompose them into smaller courses by the target dates (2009 for level 3H, 2010 for level 4H); IBLS would in fact complete this work a year ahead of schedule. A small number of requests to retain non-standard course sizes were being considered by faculties.

The Academic Structures Working Group (ASWG) recommendation that all courses should be examined in the same academic year had impacted mainly on the few remaining honours programmes with single-diet exams. These were now being phased out in all cases except Modern Languages, where the special difficulty was that students on joint language programmes currently go on overseas placements at a time that would clash with junior honours exams. ASIG had clarified that assessment of year-long placements and summer placements would take place in the following academic year, as now.

A request for permission to continue teaching the core courses of the MSc Information Technology programme during the winter exam period had been considered by the Clerk of Senate in consultation with ASIG, and approved on the basis that no student would be disadvantaged.

Agreement had been reached on the academic years for the professional programmes. These are exempted from the standard academic year, but in all cases the standard academic year has been followed as closely as possible. In particular, a common start date has been achieved in most programmes. The timing of MBChB, BDS, and BN clinical placements was necessarily affected by NHS constraints; and timing of BEd and PGDE school placements had to fit the school year (which varied from one local authority to another).

PGT programmes in Medicine, Dentistry, and Nursing are complex and varied. They are currently being discussed by the Clerk of Senate, the ASIG convener, and the Graduate School. It was expected that agreement could be reached on a model whereby there would be no more than one week’s deviation from the standard structure.

A request from DACE to retain the present 3-term structure of its open and language programmes had been considered by the Clerk of Senate in consultation with the ASIG convener, and approved on the basis that these programmes were delivered primarily to the general public; however DACE would be expected to ensure that any full-time students who opted to take these courses would be protected if class times clashed with their exams.

Credit rating of the MBChB, BDS, and BVMS programmes was under discussion at national and international levels.

Examinations

A formula for regulating exam durations had been agreed by Senate in November 2007.

The Registry was now collecting information from departments on the proposed duration and timing of their 2008-09 exams, and would use this information to test the scheduling of exams with the shortened winter and spring exam periods. The Registry had installed and tested the CMIS timetabling system; however, it required further customization to meet all GU requirements, and it was urgent that the necessary resources are approved, since this work was already behind schedule.

The Registry had secured a commitment to make the Kelvin Gallery available during all exam periods. The Registry had also identified a number of other on-campus locations that would be suitable for small exams.

ASIG had clarified that the exam durations formula does not apply to class tests (exams held in class time), but it did apply to mid-course exams held during the winter exam period. It had also clarified that practical/clinical exams need not be restricted to 1, 1½, 2, or 3 hours.

Information Systems

The new PI (Programme Information) system had been piloted in the Faculties of LBSS and Sciences. On the whole the pilot had been successful, but problems had been identified. Further developments to the system were now being prioritized. It was very likely that the system would be rolled out across all faculties in 2008–09.

The Student Lifecycle Project would replace the current student records system by 2010. Unfortunately this has halted development of SRS, except for the most urgent changes necessitated by the academic structures reforms. However, WebSurf would support registration of students on all honours courses (formerly "honours-options"), either by departments in batch mode or by the students individually. All students would receive transcripts that listed the individual courses they have taken together with their grades.

The central room bookings system was ready for the new academic year.

The student accommodation system was also ready. It would continue to cater for early arrival of international students, and of first-year MBChB, BDS and BN students who required health checks.

September Weekend Holiday

Professor Watt's report also covered the September Weekend holiday. The issue here was to ensure that the University was fully open for business on the Friday and Monday. The HR Director had proposed to the campus unions that the September weekend holidays should be replaced by two flexible holidays, and that the annual leave year should be moved from October–September to January–December. Discussions were continuing.

Professor Watt concluded by reporting that it was expected that slippage could be recovered in any area that was behind in planning for implementation.

In discussion, it was noted that the fall-back was available whereby a further week could be utilised in the event that it proved impossible to confine the examination period to the planned four weeks.

Professor Watt was thanked for his report. Further updates would be provided at Senate meetings to assess the progress of implementation.

[Note by Clerk: Generic Undergraduate Degree Regulation - Professor Watt also updated Senate on the development of the Generic Undergraduate Degree Regulation. This is dealt with in detail below, at SEN/2007/51.1 - report from the Education Policy & Strategy Committee.]

SEN/2007/51. Education, Policy & Strategy Committee: Report from the meeting held on 10 March 2008 (SEN07/044)

SEN/2007/51.1. Generic Undergraduate Regulation

Background

The proposal to develop a generic undergraduate regulation (GUR) with specific supplementary regulations had been included in the recommendations from the Academic Structures Working Group approved by Senate in November 2006, *viz*:

Core Recommendation 60

The University should develop a generic undergraduate regulation that enshrines the common features of all undergraduate programmes and the common features of each type of programme (general, designated, honours, integrated masters, or professional). The generic undergraduate regulation should be supplemented by a specific regulation for each degree (such as BSc or MA). These new regulations should be in place by September 2008.

The Academic Regulations Sub-Committee (ARSC), which reported to Academic Standards Committee (ASC), had drafted the GUR and consulted with Faculties during the spring of 2007 before submitting the detailed proposed regulation to ASC in October 2007. This had been agreed (with some modification) by ASC.

At its meeting on 7 November 2007, EdPSC had received ASC's proposal for a Generic Undergraduate Regulation (GUR), together with a template for the supplementary regulations, and a recommendation for a progress regulation for inclusion in the supplementary regulations for ordinary/designated degrees in Arts, LBSS and Science.

Discussion at that meeting had focused on two particular aspects of the GUR:

- Concern had been raised by the Faculties of Science about the number of credits proposed for the award of the 3-year ordinary/designated degree (regulation 14). A minimum of 300 credits at Grade D had been proposed, which the Faculties of Science considered too high.
- The Faculty of Law, Business & Social Sciences (LBSS) had wanted to further consider the proposed progress regulation. The Dean of LBSS later confirmed that the Faculty had no objection to it.

Subsequent to the meeting of EdPSC, the Vice-Principal (Learning, Teaching & Internationalisation) had held a meeting on 17 January 2008 with Deans (or their representatives) from the Faculties of Arts, and Law, Business & Social Sciences and the Sciences with the aim of addressing areas of ongoing concern in the Faculties of Science.

Revised GUR proposal

Agreement had been reached amongst the faculties at the meeting of 17 January, and EdPSC received a revised proposal for the GUR at its meeting on 10 March 2008. This differed from the initial proposal in the following ways:

i The GUR should allow Honours students who failed to meet Honours progression requirements at the end of Year 3 to have their work reassessed at Level 3 in order to determine whether they meet the requirements for a designated/general degree.

ii The requirements for a designated/general degree should include a minimum of 280 credits at Grade D of which at least 60 should be at Level 3.

With respect to i), it had been noted that this situation was likely to arise for only a small number of students. Regulation 14 of the GUR had been revised to reflect i) and ii) above.

Recommendation to Senate

i) EdPSC had resolved to recommend to Senate approval of:

a) the Generic Undergraduate Regulation. (Senate was provided with a copy of the GUR.)

b) the standard progress regulation to be implemented for the ordinary/designated degrees in the Faculties of Arts, LBSS and Science. (A copy of this was also provided for Senate.) This regulation aimed for completion of the ordinary/designated degree in four years and would be incorporated, as appropriate, into the supplementary regulations.

ii) Senate was requested to delegate authority to EdPSC to approve any final amendment to the regulation prior to its publication in the 2008-09 *Calendar*.

iii) Senate also noted that:

- The University's minimum requirement for a Diploma of Higher Education remained unchanged as 240 credits, of which at least 80 are for courses at Level 2 or above. This minimum requirement is out of line with the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) prescription of 90 credits at Level 2. The University has been open with the QAA that it is not compliant with the SCQF in this respect and it has been established that the Universities of Edinburgh and St Andrews also have a requirement of 80 credits at Level 2.
- Due to the structure of Certificate and Diploma of HE programmes offered through DACE it had not been possible to fit these within the GUR. Such programmes would continue to have their own regulations.
- The GUR would be implemented from Session 2008-09. There would be variations between Faculties regarding the cohort to which the GUR would apply due to current differences in credit requirements for the award of the general/designated degrees.
- Faculties were in the process of developing specific supplementary regulations for each degree.
- the General Council had reviewed and commented on the GUR. It was generally satisfied with the GUR. Some minor amendments would be incorporated to improve consistency, but there was no material change. Some checking of current practice was needed before one amendment could be made.

In discussion at Senate, a number of proposals for minor amendment to the GUR were discussed and agreed, as follows:-

Paragraph 4 (b) to be revised to the effect:

Although appropriate prior learning may be recognised for the award of credit, all such credit is ungraded for the purposes of the University, except that credit obtained in earlier study at the University of Glasgow may be graded.

(Wording to be confirmed per Recommendation ii, above.)

Paragraph 11 (a) to say '...or a sub-committee *thereof.'*

Paragraph 14 (b) to be revised to the effect:

Subject to further requirements contained in the degree's supplementary regulations, the ordinary/designated degree …"

Paragraph 15 (a) ii should read '...by the Department *or Departments*...'

Paragraph 15 (c) should read (line 2): '...to *a* particular course' (rather than 'any' particular course).

Disposal by Senate: ***Subject to the amendments noted above, to approve the recommendations from EdPSC concerning the Generic undergraduate Regulation.***

SEN/2007/51.2 Proposal for a Master of Fine Arts (Creative Writing) Degree

At its meeting on 19 December 2007, EdPSC received and considered a proposal from the Convener of the Creative Writing Programme**,** Department of English Literature seeking approval to establish a 2-year Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree, which would have two streams - in Applied Creative Writing (Fiction or Poetry) or in Creative Writing (Fiction or Poetry). The MFA would build on current provision - the MLitt and the PhD in Creative Writing with taught elements. The proposal had the general support of the Dean of Arts and the Director of the International and Postgraduate Service.

EdPSC had been advised that the University already awarded the degree of Master of Fine Art. This degree is delivered under a validation arrangement by the Glasgow School of Art (GSA) and is specific to traditional fine art disciplines. Not only was the degree title very similar but, more problematically, it used the same abbreviation, MFA. Consequently, the alternative title of Master of Fine Arts (Creative Writing) had proposed.

Following consultation with the Convener of the Creative Writing Programme and the Glasgow School of Art, EdPSC had resolved to recommend to Senate approval of the new postgraduate degree title of Master of Fine Arts (Creative Writing).

Subject to Senate approval of the title, degree regulations would still have to be developed for the award. As far as possible, the regulations would incorporate features of the generic regulations for taught Masters programmes, but there would be variations due to the duration of study and the number of credits for the award, etc.

Disposal by Senate: ***Approved.***

SEN/2007/51.3. Proposal for an International Masters

EdPSC had received and considered a proposal from the Faculty of Law, Business and Social Sciences (LBSS) to establish a new postgraduate degree title of `International Masters' for awards which incorporated a period of study abroad, and which might subsequently lead to a joint or double degree award.

The LBSS Higher Degrees Committee had approved a proposal from the Department of Central and East European Studies (CEES) to establish a Masters programme in Russian, Central and East European Studies from September 2008. This new 18 month award would initially integrate a period of study abroad on an exchange basis, but the longer term plan from 2009/10 was to develop the award of a joint degree from Glasgow and one of four other East European Universities, detailed in the proposal. The CEES proposal had been developed in negotiation with the potential partner institutions. The academic proposal had been submitted in parallel for approval through the Academic Standards Committee Programme Approval Group (PAG).

Faculty had considered in some detail the issue of a suitable degree title and nomenclature for the programme, and had concluded that there could be significant market advantage in developing awards under the new nomenclature of 'International Masters in...'

EdPSC had noted that:

i the title of International Masters is little used in the UK at present. A survey of Russian, Central and East European Studies provision in the UK has revealed that the closest comparable programme is as an `International Masters in Economy State and Society', a double degree arrangement, recognised under the *Erasmus Mundus* scheme. University College, London is offering this for the first time in 2007-08 and is considered by CEES as the most direct competition for its longer term plans.

ii at a recent meeting of all potential partners, it became apparent that there is likely to be little flexibility in the naming of the degree subject, as certain Education Ministries in, for example Hungary and Finland, define programmes within broad categories such as `European Studies' or 'Russian, Central and East European Studies'. The nomenclature of the award has, therefore, additional significance. 'International Masters' is well-regarded as a means by which European partners can deal with current restrictions.

iii LBSS believes that, as the award of International Masters was little used at present in the UK, it could be

- regarded as a highly symbolic response from Glasgow to the expansion of international provision and transnational joint programmes of study;
- a useful marketing tool and give the University a market-advantage and distinctiveness in a challenging marketplace.

EdPSC had resolved to recommend to Senate approval of the new postgraduate degree title of 'International Masters' for awards that incorporate a period of study abroad and which might subsequently lead to discussions about a joint or double degree award.

If approved, this degree title would initially be in Russian, Central and East European Studies but would potentially be available in other subjects or disciplines. Degree regulations would again need to be developed and academic dress agreed accordingly. As far as possible, the regulations would incorporate features of the generic regulations for taught Masters programmes but there would be variations due to the duration of study and the number of credits for the award, etc.

Disposal by Senate: ***Approved.***

SEN/2007/51.4 Reminder of Approval Process for Academic Collaborations

In considering the proposal for the International Masters degree title, Senate Business Committee had agreed that it would be helpful for Senate to remind itself of the arrangements it had agreed (in June 2006) for the consideration and approval of potential partners for academic collaborations.

A flowchart showing the approval process was also provided. This detailed the role of the Collaborations Group in advising whether the University should embark on proposed collaborations. In practice, the decision by the Collaborations Group whether to recommend approval of the partnership was informed from a number of sources: dialogue with the University proponents of the collaboration on the standing of the partner and experience to date of dealing with it; information on institutional standing provided by IPS and other sources; and financial guidance provided by the Faculty, in conjunction with the Finance Office. In relevant cases, the Finance Office was also requested to carry out a due diligence exercise. The set of information gathered in general had been long-established in the University.

The Collaborations Group also considered whether any and what form of approval visit to the partner institution was appropriate. Senate had agreed that this was not necessary in instances where the institution concerned was manifestly prestigious, or where the partner was a Scottish HEI which had obtained a judgement of 'Broad Confidence' (the highest available) in its ELIR Institutional Review. Much of the information traditionally gathered during a visit could nowadays be gleaned from web sites, etc., but, to protect the University, the Collaborations Group had adopted a cautious approach. For a current proposal, a party consisting of the Dean, Associate Dean, Convener of Academic Standards Committee, Senate Office Director and Faculty Secretary would visit the institution concerned. This followed earlier visits by the Dean and Associate Dean.

SEN/2007/51.5. Guide to the University's Academic Quality Framework

EdPSC informed Senate about a new Guide to the University's Academic Quality Framework, a web-based document developed by the Senate Office. This set out the arrangements for academic quality enhancement and assurance employed by the University, together with rationales for the various activities. It also explained how the University interacted with the wider Scottish national QA/QE framework. There were no new or additional quality procedures - the aim of the Guide was to bring together existing practice in one place in what was intended to be a convenient and helpful format.

The Framework was not yet openly available and Senate's views on it were invited. Any comments should be passed directly to the Director of the Senate Office at j.aitken@admin.gla.ac.uk.

The Guide was available at: http://senate.gla.ac.uk/qa/aqf_guide/index.html

Disposal by Senate: ***Noted.***

SEN/2007/51.6. Review of National Quality Enhancement Framework

In previous reports on the review of National Quality Enhancement Framework, EdPSC had been advised of some serious concerns regarding the way in which the review had been conducted and the nature of the outcomes. It was reported that more recent developments arising out of the review were significantly more encouraging. Senate Office staff have now had sight of two key draft documents:

- SFC Guidance to HE Institutions on quality
- A pre-consultation version of the QAA Scotland Handbook for the second ELIR cycle

Both documents underlined the strengths of the current system and clearly articulated with thinking in the sector about the quality enhancement agenda and with current QA/QE processes. This recognition was lacking from earlier documents. Generally, the revised framework was welcomed.

The SFC guidance document focused on making better use of the outputs from existing processes instead of, as had been feared, adding further sets of significant activity. Some changes would be necessary, including more comprehensive annual reporting to the SFC and greater involvement of universities' governing bodies in `signing-off` quality information. There would also be some implications for the University's system of service department review, conducted at the request of the Secretary of Court.

Since the meeting of EdPSC, the ELIR handbook had been issued for consultation with a closing date of 18 April. Much had been retained from the current ELIR process and the overall structure and main building blocks of ELIR would not be changed (4-year cycle, two part visit, judgement made on University's ability to maintain academic standards and quality, etc). The main proposed changes were:

- a further emphasis on student engagement (undergraduate and postgraduate (PGT and PGR)) in university management of the learning experience, including the role of students in preparations for the reviews.
- Greater international dimension. There would be an additional member of the review team, from outside the UK. There would be increased use of international 'reference points'.
- Greater emphasis on the equality and diversity agenda.
- A more explicit focus on staff support and development in the context of institutional management of the student learning experience.
- Judgements would be expressed in the same way as had been adopted in England: 'Confidence'; 'limited Confidence'; or 'No Confidence'.
- Two reports to be produced per review: a summary for the lay reader, and a more technical document for the institution and interested outsiders.
- A more detailed consideration of how the University manages quality in institutions whose awards we validated, especially re quality enhancement.

A draft response including some additional background information and a link to the draft handbook is available at:

http://senate.gla.ac.uk/academic/externalreports/ELIR_Handbook_2nd_Edition.pdf

EdPSC was reminded that ELIR included the postgraduate research (PGR) student experience and the Vice Principal (Learning, Teaching and Internationalisation) would be meeting shortly with the Head of Graduate Schools Forum to raise issues relating to PGR students, such as how feedback is obtained and responded to, representation on key committees, etc.

It had also been confirmed that the University's next ELIR visit would occur in 2009-10, and not 2008-09 as had been expected. This deferral, however, might be of limited material benefit, as the visit could be held in the first semester.

Disposal by Senate: ***Noted.***

SEN/2007/51.7. Providing feedback to students on examinations

EdPSC had received clarification of a misunderstanding about the Data Protection Act 1998 and providing written comments on examination scripts as a means of improving feedback to students. EdPSC had noted that the current policy on providing feedback to students on examinations did not prevent, or seek to deter, examiners from writing comments on examination scripts. Any comments made, whether written on the scripts or on separate sheets, would, however, be seen by students who requested a copy of an examination script. It had been agreed that this clarification should also be drawn to the attention of Senate. In light of the student concerns on assessment and feedback highlighted from the National Student Survey and the First Year Student Questionnaire data, the provision of structured feedback on assessment was to be encouraged.

EdPSC had also been reminded that academic departments were now responsible for issuing routine information to a student on their performance (including examinations grades, marks, examiners' comments, etc.). Students should no longer have to submit a subject access request to access this information. It had been acknowledged that this would involve additional administrative resource, but students had the right to this information. It had been confirmed that students could have supervised access to the information as an alternative to providing a copy of an examination script.

Disposal by Senate: ***Noted.***

SEN/2007/51.8. Revision to Programme Approval Groups and Fast-track Procedures

ASC had agreed revisions to Programme Approval Groups (PAGs) and the Fast-track procedures as follows:

i from session 2008-09, PAGs would be scheduled to meet in Semester 1 as well as Semester 2. This would allow proposals developed by Faculties over the summer to be fully approved before the end of the calendar year.

ii with immediate effect, PAGs would consider proposals under fast-track arrangements, replacing the current use of a pool of Faculty nominees. Meetings would be scheduled when requests for fast-track procedures were approved. PAG members would be invited to nominate a substitute for occasions when they were unavailable to attend meetings. Each PAG would be convened by a member of ASC, but if meetings were necessary during peak leave periods, any or all of the remaining attendees could be substitutes. The Senate Office would revise the current fast-track guidelines.

Disposal by Senate: ***Noted.***

SEN/2007/51.9. Facility for Texting Students

EdPSC had welcomed the news that the Faculties of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine were taking part in a text messaging pilot, which commenced in the

first week of March for approximately two months, being run by IT Services. The pilot would focus on identifying an appropriate operating model, budget management, guidelines, interfaces and policies. The pilot would not deliver all the required guidelines, interfaces and policies, but would provide a clear definition of what is required.

If it was agreed to proceed to full roll-out, guidelines, interfaces, policies and budget funding would need to be planned, developed and resourced. The roll-out date could only be confirmed once these agreements and policies were in place. IT Services was funding the pilot, but additional resources would be required to fund the full implementation of a texting facility.

In discussion at Senate, it was questioned whether the text messaging facility represented an appropriate use of resources. However, others responded that more students (96%) regularly used mobile phones, a higher percentage than regularly used email. This had been the finding at another university which had introduced text messaging facilities. The initiative also represented a response to a great deal of student requests for such a facility. The comment was also made that the facility could aid student retention.

Disposal by Senate: ***Noted.***

The report from EdPSC was otherwise noted.

SEN/2007/52. Research Planning & Strategy Committee: Report from the meeting held on 20 March 2008 (SEN07/045)

Senate approved and noted the contents of the report from the meeting of the Research Planning & Strategy Committee held on 20 March 2008.

SEN/2007/53 Events and Appointments

SEN/2007/53.1. Commemoration Day - Wednesday 18 June 2008

Members of Senate were warmly invited to attend the events on Commemoration Day.

SEN/2007/53.2. Nominations for consideration for the award of Honorary Degrees in June 2009 and thereafter

Senate was reminded that Nominations were now invited for consideration for the award of Honorary Degrees and Fellowships in 2009 and thereafter. Nominations should be submitted to the Senate Office by 27 June 2008. Nomination Forms (which may be supplemented by additional information) may be obtained from Faculty Offices, the Senate Office (Laura McLaughlin, 6063) or at:

http://senate.gla.ac.uk/hondegs/index.html

SEN/2007/53.3 Senate Professorial Inductions

The following events had been arranged for the induction into Senate of new professors of the University:

- Wednesday 7 May 12.30-2.00 pm

A short ceremony will take place in the Senate Room followed by a buffet lunch in the Carnegie Room for those being inducted.

- Wednesday 14 May 5.30-7.00 pm

A short ceremony will take place in the Senate Room followed by a buffet supper in the Carnegie Room for those being inducted.

This new format for the induction of Senate members offered them the opportunity to meet with the Principal and some senior members of Senate along with other new Professorial colleagues, and to hear more about the work of Senate and some of its wider activities.

Any other members of Senate wishing to attend these events would be most welcome.

SEN/2007/53.4. Senate Assessors for Discipline

Under extended powers, the Clerk of Senate had approved the following nominations:

Professor Graeme Ruxton as Senior Senate Assessor for Discipline for session 2008-09.

Dr Susan Batchelor as Senate Assessor for Discipline, with immediate effect.

Disposal by Senate: ***Endorsed.***

SEN/2007/53.5. Senate Assessors for Complaints

Under extended powers, the Clerk of Senate had approved the nomination of Dr Kathryn Lowe as Senate Assessor for Complaints, with immediate effect.

Disposal by Senate: ***Endorsed.***

SEN/2007/53.6. School Governorships

Under extended powers, the Clerk of Senate had approved the following nominations:

Board of Governors, Dollar Academy:

Dr Gordon Curry with immediate effect until 28 November 2011 to complete the unexpired position of Professor R Matthew's term of office.

Board of Governors, Morrison's Academy:

Professor W Hanson for a further term from 2008-09 to 2011-2012 inclusive.

Disposal by Senate: ***Endorsed.***

SEN/2007/54. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Senate will be held on Thursday, 5 June 2008 at 3.00 pm.

Prepared by: Dr Jack Aitken Clerk to Committee J.Aitken@admin.gla.ac.uk

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