

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Academic Quality and Standards Committee

There will be a meeting of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee on Thursday 29 January 2015 at **9.00am** in room CMR 1.0 (formerly the Council Chamber), University House.

**Note: Questions on agenda items or apologies for this meeting** should be directed to the Secretary of the Committee, Katharine Gray, ext 22707, email [k.gray@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:k.gray@warwick.ac.uk) or to the Assistant Secretary, Cara Smith, ext 74464, email [c.l.smith@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:c.l.smith@warwick.ac.uk)

K Sloan  
Registrar and Chief Operating Officer

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**STRATEGIC ITEM FOR DISCUSSION**

1. Institutional Teaching and Learning Review

TO CONSIDER:

A discussion paper on the next institutional Teaching and Learning Review by the Senior Assistant Registrar (Teaching Quality) (Paper AQSC.28/14-15, copy attached).

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**A G E N D A**

2. Terms of Reference, Constitution and Membership

TO REPORT:

That the Vice-Chancellor has taken action on behalf of the Senate to approve revisions to the membership of the Academic Quality and Standards Committee as set out in Paper AQSC.1/14-15 (revised 2) (copy attached) noting:

- That Dr N Monk had been appointed as Acting Director of IATL (*vice* Dr P Taylor)
- That Professor A Dowd had been appointed Academic Director of the Graduate School.

3. Conflicts of Interest

TO REPORT:

That, should any members or attendees of the Committee have any conflicts of interest relating to agenda items for the meeting, they should be declared in accordance with the CUC Guide for Members of Higher Education Governing Bodies in the UK.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

TO CONSIDER:

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2014 (copy attached).

5. Matters arising

Paper from the Interdisciplinarity Sub-Group of AQSC (minute AQSC.13(d) and 25(b)/14-15 refer)

TO REPORT:

- (a) That, at its meeting on 30 October 2014, the Committee had considered a report from the Interdisciplinary Sub-Group of AQSC (Paper AQSC.7/14-15) and resolved:

That the report be amended in light of comments set out below and brought to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration:

- (i) That an additional recommendation regarding the need for workload models to recognize teaching undertaken on interdisciplinary modules be included;
- (ii) That the report be redrafted to reflect issues affecting existing interdisciplinary courses, not just those offered by IATL;
- (iii) That an enhanced focus on strategic considerations be included in the report.

- (b) That, at its meeting on 3 December 2014, it was reported to the Committee:

- (i) That the discussion at the Committee had been reported to the IATL Steering Group at its meeting on 12 November 2014.

(by the Chair):

- (ii) That the outcomes of the discussion at the previous meeting of the Committee had been reported to and considered by the IATL Steering Group:

(by the Chair of the Interdisciplinary Sub-Group of AQSC)

- (iii) That the Interdisciplinary Sub-Group of AQSC would bring a paper to the Committee later in the year with refined proposals for addressing barriers to the strategic development of interdisciplinary modules.

- (iv) That, with this in mind, endorsement was sought from the Committee to progress the following developments:

- (A) Exploring what other modules (offered by academic departments but available to students across the University) could benefit from similar arrangements to IATL modules;
- (B) Easier facilitation of module uptake via SITS Student Records online through improved visibility of interdisciplinary modules available;
- (C) Favourable timetabling options for interdisciplinary modules;

- (v) That IATL facilitated informed module selection by inviting both staff and students to taster sessions.
- (vi) That interdisciplinary modules would not be made available to students where departments had not given permission for this to be done.

(by the Representative of Senate (Science))

- (vii) That departments would need to include interdisciplinary modules as available options in course regulations in order that students would not have to request to take them as unusual options;

And the Committee resolved:

- (viii) That, in the interests of auditing the current custom and practice, a list of departments who have agreed to promote and/or allow the uptake of interdisciplinary modules be collated and reported to the Committee at a later meeting;
- (ix) That the Chair be permitted to take action on behalf of the Committee to take forward recommendations in this area.

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair on developments.

6. Chair's Action

Distance Learning PGA in Career Development

TO REPORT:

That the Chair of the Committee, acting on its behalf, has taken action to approve a request from the Warwick Business School for the introduction of a PGA in Career Development to be delivered online, as set out in Papers GFSS.57 a-d/14-15 (available online).

7. Chair's Business

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Chair.

8. Students Union Update

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Education Officer and the Postgraduate Officer of the Students' Union.

9. HEFCE Discussion Document on the Future of Quality Assessment in Higher Education

TO CONSIDER:

A discussion document on the Future of Quality Assessment in Higher Education published by the HEFCE (Paper AQSC.29/14-15, copy attached).

10. Education Report to Steering Committee

TO RECEIVE:

The Education Report considered by Steering Committee at its meeting on 19 January 2015 (Paper SC.58/14-15 copy attached)

11. Feedback to Students on Dissertations and Examinations

TO CONSIDER:

A paper setting out proposals on feedback to students on dissertations and examinations (Paper AQSC.30/14-15, copy attached).

12. Learning and Teaching Strategy Action Plan

TO RECEIVE:

An oral report from the Secretary on the Learning and Teaching Strategy Action Plan.

13. Collaborative Courses

MA in Global Governance at the University of Waterloo, Canada and the University of Warwick

TO REPORT:

(a) That at its meeting on 23 May 2014 the Collaborative, Flexible and Distributed Learning Sub-Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Politics and International Studies to introduce a new Double MA in Global Governance at the University of Waterloo, Canada, based at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and the University of Warwick, Department of Politics and International Studies, as set out in the following papers:

- (i) Collaborative Risk Assessment (paper CFDLSC 116/13-14);
- (ii) "Part 1" Course approval form (paper GFSS 85(a)/13-14);
- (iii) "Part 4" Course approval form (paper CFDLSC 117/13-14);

And resolved:

That the proposal from the Department of Politics and International Studies to introduce a new Double MA in Global Governance at the

University of Waterloo, Canada, based at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and the University of Warwick, Department of Politics and International Studies, be approved by the Chair following the meeting, subject to:

- (iv) Correction of the course titles on p7 of the “Part 1” course approval form;
  - (v) Confirmation of the length and format of the dissertation module;
  - (vi) Confirmation of receipt of a satisfactory report from an external advisor on the proposed collaborative arrangement;
  - (vii) Receipt of appropriate “due diligence” documentation in support of the collaboration.
- (b) That at its meeting on 5 June 2014, the Board of Graduate Studies considered the proposal to introduce a new Double MA in Global Governance at the University of Waterloo, Canada, based at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and the University of Warwick, Department of Politics and International Relations, as set out in papers GFSS.85a-b/13-14.

And resolved:

That the proposal be approved, subject to the following, noting that a number of the conditions have already been satisfied but that the remainder would need to be met in order for the proposal to be fully approved:

- (i) Confirmation that existing students will transfer onto the course;
  - (ii) Receipt of the external examiner’s report;
  - (iii) Clarification of the entry requirements for the course, in particular whether all students would need to satisfy the GMAT requirements;
  - (iv) Clarification regarding which institution’s regulations would apply where a student fails the dissertation element;
  - (v) Confirmation that the dissertation length will be increased to a minimum of 18,000 words;
  - (vi) Clarification as to whether the proposed modules will be introduced as new modules, or align with existing PAIS modules, noting the similarity with the latter.
- (c) That outstanding conditions have now been addressed satisfactorily and that the Chairs of the Collaborative, Flexible and Distributed Learning Sub-Committee and the Board of Graduate Studies have taken action on behalf of their committees respectively to recommend the proposed collaboration to the Academic Quality and Standards Committee for approval and to approve the course.

TO CONSIDER:

A proposal from the Department of Politics and International Studies to introduce a new Double MA in Global Governance at the University of Waterloo, Canada, based at the Balsillie School of International Affairs and the

University of Warwick, Department of Politics and International Studies, as set out in the following papers:

- (d) Collaborative Risk Assessment (paper CFDLSC 116/13-14 (revised), [available online](#));
- (e) "Part 1" Course approval form (paper GFSS 85(a)/13-14 (revised), [available online](#));
- (f) "Part 4" Course approval form (paper CFDLSC 117/13-14, [available online](#));

14. Any other business

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**ITEMS TO REPORT AND APPROVE WITHOUT FURTHER DISCUSSION**

The Chair and Secretary consider that the following items are non-controversial and/or can be accepted with a minimum of explanation. Members of the Committee may, however, ask for any of the following items to be transferred to the agenda for discussion, by contacting the Secretary in advance of the meeting, or by raising the item at the commencement of the meeting.

15. New Postgraduate Courses of Study

TO REPORT:

That it was reported to the Board of Graduate Studies at its meeting on 13 January 2015 that the Chair had taken action on behalf of the Board to approve the following new courses:

- PgA Career Development
- MA in Politics and International Studies: Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- MSc in Healthcare Operations Management
- MSc in Medical Biotechnology and Business Management

16. Revised Postgraduate Courses of Study

TO REPORT:

That it was reported to the Board of Graduate Studies at its meeting on 13 January 2015 that the Chair had taken action on behalf of the Board to approve the following revisions to courses:

- PGCE Variants
- MA/Postgraduate Diploma/Postgraduate Certificate in Career Coaching and Coaching Studies (CDCS)
- MSc Integrative Bioscience
- MSc Integrative Bioscience and Business

17. Next meeting

TO REPORT:

That the next meeting of the Committee is scheduled to be held on Monday 23 February 2015 at 3.00pm in room CMR 1.0, University House.