



Academic Board

10 June 2020

MINUTES

1. Attendance and apologies

1.1. Present:

AC Grayling	Master (Chair)
Brian Ball	HoF for Philosophy and Head of Research
Rosalind Barrs	Registrar (Secretary)
Catherine Brown	HoF for English
Pablo Calderon-Martinez	Acting HoF for Politics & IR
Dimitrios Kyriazis	HoF for Law
Susan Green	HoF for Art History
Naomi Goulder	Dean for Academic Affairs & Innovation
Sonia Jones	Minute Secretary
Lars Kjaer	HoF for History
Marianna Koli	Dean for Education in Business and Economics, HoF for Economics
Rebecca Morrison	Head of Quality Assurance
Indrajit Ray	External Representative
Agnieszka Slusarska	Student Representative
Martin Smith	Executive Dean
1.2. Apologies	
Diana Bozhilova	HoF for Politics & IR (Research Leave)
Chris Gallagher	Vice Chancellor for Global Learning Opportunities, NU
Maria Payro	President NCHSU

Uta Poiger

Dean of College of Social Sciences and
Humanities, NU

Vaibhav Rustagi

Director of Careers

1.3. Notice of meeting

1.3.1. Notice of this meeting had been given to all members.

1.3.2. No members declared any conflict or potential conflict of interest.

1.3.3. The meeting was quorate.

2. Minutes of the 11 March were **APPROVED**.

3. Matters arising

3.1. Matters arising were updated.

4. 4.1 Chair's Actions

4.1.1. Internal Interview Policy

It was **NOTED** that Chair's Action had been taken to approve minor amendments.

4.2. Chair's Report

It was **NOTED** that matters in the planned report would be addressed under matters of business of the agenda or at the all staff meeting on Friday 12 June.

5. Approval of Programmes

5.1. It was **NOTED** that, in all cases, external panel members had been impressed by the quality of the faculty and the programmes. HoFs were encouraged to look at the reports of other Faculties to further facilitate the sharing of good practice throughout the College.

5.1.1. Art History

SG reported that there had been no essential recommendations and the advisable recommendations had been addressed.

The following programmes were **APPROVED**:

BA (Hons) Art History with Creative Writing

BA (Hons) Art History with Economics

BA (Hons) Art History with English

BA (Hons) Art History with History

BA (Hons) Art History with Law

BA (Hons) Art History with Philosophy

BA (Hons) Art History with Politics & International Relations

5.1.2. Economics

The following programmes were **APPROVED**:

BSc (Hons) Economics with Art History

BSc (Hons) Economics with Creative Writing

BSc (Hons) Economics with English

BSc (Hons) Economics with History

BSc (Hons) Economics with Law

BSc (Hons) Economics with Philosophy

BSc (Hons) Economics with Politics and International Relations

5.1.3. English

CB thanked LK and other members of the Panel.

The following programmes were **APPROVED**:

BA (Hons) English with Art History

BA (Hons) English with Creative Writing

BA (Hons) English with Economics

BA (Hons) English with History

BA (Hons) English with Law

BA (Hons) English with Philosophy

BA (Hons) English with Politics and International Relations

5.1.4. History

The following programmes were **APPROVED**:

BA (Hons) History with Art History

BA (Hons) History with Creative Writing

BA (Hons) History with Economics

BA (Hons) History with English

BA (Hons) History with Law

BA (Hons) History with Philosophy

BA (Hons) History with Politics and International Relations

MA in Historical Research and Public History

5.1.5. Law

DK thanked SG for chairing the Panel.

The following programmes were **APPROVED**:

LLB (Hons) Law

LLB (Hons) Law with Art History

LLB (Hons) Law with Creative Writing

LLB (Hons) Law with Economics
LLB (Hons) Law with English
LLB (Hons) Law with History
LLB (Hons) Law with Philosophy
LLB (Hons) Law with Politics and IR

5.1.6. Philosophy

The following programmes were **APPROVED**:

BA (Hons) Philosophy with Art History
BA (Hons) Philosophy with Creative Writing
BA (Hons) Philosophy with Economics
BA (Hons) Philosophy with English
BA (Hons) Philosophy with History
BA (Hons) Philosophy with Law
BA (Hons) Philosophy with Politics and International Relations
MA in Philosophy

5.1.7. Politics and International Relations

BB, as Chair of the Panel, commented that there was a lot of good practice to be shared, including exploiting resources outside of the curriculum.

The following programmes were **APPROVED**:

BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Art History
BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Creative Writing
BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Economics
BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations with English
BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations with History
BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Law
BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Philosophy

5.1.8. Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE), and Philosophy, Politics and History (PPH) were **APPROVED**.

5.1.8.1 CB, as Chair of the Panel, highlighted i) the external panel member's full support of the

development of the programmes, including the need to develop the programmes' identities; and ii) the recommendation for programme-specific student representatives.

5.1.8.2 PPE gives options for Economics majors to take more technical aspects of the subject to enhance future careers options.

5.1.8.3 IR sought clarification of the weighting of each subject in the various pathways of the programmes.

5.1.8.4 BB explained that the Philosophy Faculty is taking under consideration the Level 4 and Level 5 prerequisite courses for Level 6 optional courses in time for the next opportunity for modifications. Some 30-credit courses may become 15-credit courses to enhance optionality.

6. Academic Qualities Framework, Policies and Guidance

6.1 AQF4 Appendix C

Programme and Course Approval and Modification: emergency procedure

This was **APPROVED** with the amendment of changing 'November' to 'January/February' in #4.24.

BB asked whether provision could be included to change the name of the Course Leader and the term in which the course is taught on Course Descriptors.

ACTION: RM to consider whether these changes would be Category 1 or Category 2 changes.

6.2 AQF7 Academic Regulations for Taught Awards: 7.57 Capping of marks

It was **DECIDED** that faculty would be invited to take part in further consideration.

ACTION: HoFs to discuss first, then to discuss at Faculty Meetings, then back to a HoFs' meeting, joined by RB and RM.

Any final amendments would be approved by Chair's Action by September. HoFs would be mindful of the workload for professional staff when making recommendations.

6.3 AQF7 Academic Regulations for Taught Awards: 7.55 Marking

It was **DECIDED** that faculty would be invited to take part in further consideration.

ACTION: HoFs to discuss first, then to discuss at Faculty Meetings, then back to a HoFs' meeting, joined by RB and RM.

Any final amendments would be approved by Chair's Action by September.

6.4 Misuse of Substances Statement (formerly Drugs and Alcohol Policy)

This was **APPROVED** with the following amendments:

- #14 to be clarified, to cover NCH students selling controlled substances themselves, and to mention this first, followed by those inviting non-College members into College to do so.
- #20 Clarify that the Master will be informed but will not necessarily take possession of the evidence himself.

It was recognised that staff responsible for carrying out searching, screening and confiscation would need to be mindful of the sensitivities of this and any possible bias.

The College does not own or lease any student accommodation and so this does not fall under College premises.

ACTION: RB to consider the procedures for searching, screening and confiscation and the necessary training required for staff.

7. Student transfers

7.1 Student transfers to NCH degree programmes, and honorary degrees

7.1.1 Transfers from undergraduate programmes validated by Solent University

It was **NOTED** that all eligible students had chosen to transfer.

7.1.2 Transfers from postgraduate programmes validated by Swansea University

It was **NOTED** that all eligible students had chosen to transfer.

7.1.3 Honorary degrees for current Level 6/Year 3 students and alumni

It was **NOTED** that qualifying students and alumni had been notified and a process is in place to provide certification.

7.2 Students transferring with deficit credit to NCH degree programmes

RB reported that the temporary Assessment Regulations, which incorporate a 'no detriment' principle, allow current Level 4/Year 1 and Level 5/Year 2 undergraduates to proceed with a deficit of up to 60 credits, rather than the standard 30 credits. The students proceeding thus only re-take assessment elements, and do not retake the courses by attending lectures and tutorials. However, they might have heavier workloads preparing for coursework assessments and/or revising for examinations and so might need some extra academic support.

There may be some students with a deficit of more than 60 credits who will then have to re-take the courses in their entirety as if for the first time.

Both sets of students may be required to retake assessment elements or study courses which will no longer be available or have changed under the approved NCH programmes from September 2020. RB

explained that RM had provided a list of such courses and that, once the second-sitting Progression and Award Board had sat on 4 August, she would work with RM to seek approval of the required courses.

ACTION: RB to review which discontinued or changed courses will be required to be approved.

8. Current Level 6/Year 3 undergraduate students

- 8.1 Year 3 undergraduate students would remain on the programmes validated by Solent University (SU). It was **DECIDED** to recommend to SU that these students re-take failed assessment elements at a third sitting in Michaelmas, at the end of October 2020.

ACTION: RB to take the recommendation that Year 3 students re-take failed assessment elements at a third sitting in Michaelmas, at the end of October 2020, to Solent University.

8.2 Graduation 2020

It was **DECIDED** that the graduation ceremony planned for September 2020 would be postponed, with a view to rearranging for December 2020 or January 2021, thus allowing a safe event and as many graduates as possible to attend.

9. Contingency Planning Working Group Update

CB **REPORTED** that contingency planning is underway with various subgroups including one for faculty, and within that a subgroup for online teaching. Shimon Agur, VLE and Library Resources Manager, will be delivering training on Canvas to include online teaching. Work continues on the teaching timetable.

10. Admissions

10.1 Undergraduate Acceptances as at 26 May 2020

MS **REPORTED** that there are currently 88 undergraduate acceptances and 4 postgraduate acceptances, which is encouraging. The new UCAS deadline is 18 June.

However, international student numbers will be down because of Covid-19 related matters, and the DfE has introduced student number controls for UK and EU undergraduates, with the College being capped at 77. This is based on having 67 first-year undergraduates in December 2019, plus 10. There will be penalties for acceptances above this number. The College has challenged this, pointing out the unfairness of incremental penalties for small institutions where a single student could represent 1.3% of the intake. Clarification has also been sought on whether students transferring from other institutions will be included in the cap.

IR asked whether there were any restrictions on the recruitment of international students. MS said that there was not and that we were active in this market and for postgraduate students, with our online taster sessions and 1:1 work with applicants being very well received.

10.2 English Qualifications Equivalencies

Two new SELT (Secure English Language Tests) - Pearson and LanguageCert - had been approved by the UKVI and so their inclusion was **APPROVED**.

ACTION: RB to work on offering Data Sciences and Psychology as Enrichments, once the programmes incorporating these subjects have been approved.

11. Dissemination of Interim NSS Response Rates

This was **NOTED**. RM reported that the threshold for publication had been met.

12. Faculty Roles

It was **NOTED** that Dr Oliver Ayers had been appointed as Programme Development Coordinator in a temporary appointment from October 2019 to 30 April 2020 supporting the Dean for Academic Development and Innovation in developing with-TDAP learning strategies, supporting the process for revalidation, and the new humanics course for a 2021 launch; and that Dr Peter Maber had been appointed Lead on Academic Engagement.

13. Programme Satisfaction Survey

It was **NOTED** that the mid-point review for the long courses had been removed because some lectures were finishing in week 8 of Hilary - meaning that students had had only, in some instances, six weeks of teaching since they were last surveyed, and if lectures were every other week this would have meant that some students had had only three lectures.

14. Advertising of Visiting Professors

It was **AGREED** that a new category, possibly 'patron' should be created and shown on the website, for Visiting Professors who had been supportive of the College but no longer gave regular lectures; and that professors who do not teach on the curriculum be removed from Faculty pages.

ACTION: ACG to consider what the new category might be and to advise those professors.

ACTION: RM to work with the Director of Marketing on displaying professors on the most appropriate page, once the new category has been established.

Diversity across Faculties, including the contribution made from visiting professors, would enrich the research culture of the College as well as the student experience.

Redacted – restricted information.

15. AOB

AS asked when students will be told about arrangements for September. ACG explained that the Contingency Planning Working Group was working hard on this and that there would be a communication to staff and students on teaching plans for September as soon as possible.