

The University of Edinburgh

Moray House School of Education

School Planning and Resources Committee

Minute of meeting held on Wednesday, 2 December 2015 at 14:00 in St John's Land 4.22

Present: Dr R Arshad (Convener)
Dr P Allison
Mr R Baillie
Dr S Coleman
Mr P Evans
Professor L Florian
Dr Y Foley
Dr I Fyfe
Dr A Hancock
Mr N Houston
Dr M Jess
Dr A MacDonald
Dr G McCluskey
Dr C Nash
Dr R Nicol
Dr S Psycharakis
Dr J Ross
Dr C Valentin

In attendance: Ms K Derrick (Secretary)
Dr G Robinson – for discussion of item 3
Dr D Torrance – for discussion of item 3

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Dr S Beames, Dr J Ravenscroft, Dr L Reid and Mr A Wigglesworth.

2. Minute of meeting held on 13 October 2015

(a) Accuracy of record

Professor Florian should be added to the list of those present.

Ref item 5, Digital Education: Foundation Document for Research Centre, first sentence, *for* "Digital Education Resource Centre" *read*

“Digital Education Research Centre”. Subject to these amendments the minute was approved as an accurate record.

(b) Matters arising

Ref item 5, Digital Education: Foundation Document for Research Centre, a case had been put forward for administrative support for the centre but the PRAF had been rejected. This would require to be redone and resubmitted to College for approval.

3. MEd Leadership and Learning (Paper A)

The Director of Postgraduate Studies provided background to the proposal of the MEd Leadership and Learning. It was an atypical programme based on the global academies model made up of three PG certificates with no dissertation. The structure of the programme was very flexible and allowed students to develop their own pathway through it. The validation panel had been supportive of the programme but had concerns with regard to costs and timings and the speed at which the programme was being developed. It was noted that the programme proposal was not yet approved by SPGSC. It was hoped this approval would be forthcoming in the week beginning 7 December.

There was also a political context to the programme proposal and this was outlined by the Programme Directors. It was noted that the programme met the professional learning needs of teachers in Scotland. The School had received over £300k of funding from the Scottish Government to cover development costs and fees for the first two years.

There was a risk if the School did not approve this qualification that it could lose the goodwill of its partner Local Authorities which could impact on the quality of ITE student placement offers and experiences.

It was queried how the programme interacted with existing Masters provision. PGDE graduates gain 60 credits at Level 11 in their qualification and can use this to APL a certificate within the MEd LL. At present there is nowhere else for PGDE graduates to utilise their Level 11 credits. It was reported that it was the intention to increase flexibility and that some colleagues were working towards the situation where the credits could be counted but there were several issues to be overcome such as double counting and it was not known how long it would take to find a resolution to these.

Staffing concerns – for individuals and the team. This was critical. It was agreed the School should look at identifying who could contribute to the programme. The Quality Assurance implications of having a small number of staff were noted for the robustness of the programme.

Data on fees was included in the financial appendix to Paper A. It was noted that the University of Edinburgh fees were significantly higher than those of competitors.

It was queried how the proposals linked to other developments in the School and the changing direction with regard to ITE provision, ie the possible forthcoming 2-year Scottish Masters. If that development went ahead then graduates could still return to complete a specialist PG Certificate/Diploma/ Masters and the proposed programme's design was flexible to be able to respond to such changes. It was noted that it was the Scottish Government who determined the timing and they would decide whether or not a Scottish Masters was the direction to go in. The Scottish Government had agreed to a later start of January 2016 for the "Into Headship" Certificate. Other providers had started provision in September 2015 and the University of Edinburgh would be the last HEI to begin the programme.

Fees would be top-sliced by 47%. However there would be no marketing or recruitment costs involved. The School should query whether a case might be made for a reduced top-slice. The programme is expensive to deliver because it is long, thin and there is a likelihood with IoS etc that students might take anything up to 6 years to finish.

SPRC had given the proposal a thorough airing and were supportive of this innovative proposal. However, it was the view of the committee that there were too many unanswered questions and that the proposal could not be approved at this time. Answers would be sought and brought to the February meeting of the committee. A delay to the start date should be sought. Meantime the academic approval process should continue through Board of Studies etc with an anticipated start date to be determined some time in Spring 2016. Members were aware of the potential consequences if the Scottish Government did not agree to the delay to the start date.

The Convener thanked members for a good discussion of the issues surrounding this proposal.

4. School finances update – Closed business

The note of discussion of this item is in the closed business appendix to this minute.

5. High priority items for the School

The main priority for the School at present was its financial situation which had been discussed under item 4 above. It was agreed there were no other items requiring discussion at this time.

6. Any other business**(a) Re-naming of Graduate School**

The Director of Postgraduate Studies proposed that the name of the Graduate School be changed to "Graduate School of Education and Sport". This would more accurately reflect provision in the School and align with the REF and research interests. This was supported by members and approved. The Director of Postgraduate Studies undertook to take this forward.

As a result of this change it was queried whether the School should consider changing its name. It was agreed that this required wider consultation and the convener undertook to discuss this with staff at the School meeting to be held on 10 December.

(b) School seminars/workshops/events

The Director of Postgraduate Studies proposed that a weekly email be issued which included information about all forthcoming seminars/workshops/events to be held in the School. At present information was issued by various organisers of events and it was not always clear from a student perspective where these were coming from. By bringing everything together it would provide a more coherent front for the School and reduce the number of emails being issued. Members thought that this was a good idea and it was agreed that the Director of Postgraduate Studies should convene a small group to look at how this could be achieved. A report should be brought to the February meeting of SPRC for further consideration.

7. Dates of future meetings

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 10 February from 12:30-16:30. There was also a meeting scheduled for 4 May 2016 at 14:00.

(18 December 2015/KD)