

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Senate - Thursday 15 March 2007

**Education Policy and Strategy Committee: Report of Meeting held
on 21 February 2007**

Professor A M Nolan, Convener

**1. Progress in Implementing the Recommendations of Academic Structures
Working Group (ASWG) [For Noting]**

EdPSC approved a revised Glossary of Terms for taught degrees, which had been introduced three years previously. The revisions included updated definitions of 'course' and 'programme' (in accordance with recommendation 48 of the ASWG Report) plus new or other revised definitions. The revised Glossary is detailed in Appendix 1.

ASC had agreed the following arrangements for the approval of changes to programmes or courses arising from the introduction of the common programme structure (in respect of recommendation 59):

- i) changes to courses or programmes should be treated as minor changes and therefore approved at Faculty level only;
- ii) exceptions to either credit rating or in-year assessment (items b) or c) of recommendation 59) should be approved at Faculty level and reported to ASC for information.

It had been agreed that the Senate Office should provide a briefing note for Faculties on the approval procedures for changes arising from the ASWG's recommendations, and that where possible, CCIMS changes should be processed centrally.

With respect to the credit rating of 5 year professional degrees in Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Medicine (recommendation 65), ASC had agreed that the process of credit rating should be expedited with a view to achieving this for introduction at the start of session 2009-10. It had been acknowledged that there was a need for these areas to take into account national developments in each subject area to ensure that practice at the University of Glasgow was not markedly inconsistent from elsewhere.

Academic Standards Committee: Report from Meeting held on 26 January 2007 - Appendix 1: Glossary of Terms for Taught Degrees

Ms H Butcher, Clerk to the Committee

November 2014

Glossary of Terms

Term	Existing Definition	New Definition
Academic session (or academic year)	A period normally beginning in the autumn and lasting for two semesters.	A 12-month period, beginning in September, during which courses are taught and assessed.
Aggregation score	The numerical equivalent of a grade.	The numerical equivalent of a grade and band, used in the classification of Honours and Masters degrees. Paragraphs 16.10 – 16.18 and Schedule A of the Code of Assessment describe fully.
Assessment	Judgment of the standard of attainment of the intended learning outcomes of a course or part of a course.	Judgment of the standard of attainment of the intended learning outcomes of a programme, course, or course component.
Award	The degree, certificate or diploma which is conferred following the successful completion of a defined programme of study.	(unchanged)
Band (or Secondary band)	The sub-division of grade which indicates the degree of certainty with which a judgment of grading is made. Applied to grades they complete the notation A+, A, A-, etc.	A subdivision of a grade that reflects the confidence with which a judgment of grading is made. For example, grade “A” is subdivided into bands “A1”, “A2”, “A3”, “A4”, and “A5”.
Certificate of Higher Education	Award requiring 120 credits, normally at level 1.	An award following successful completion of undergraduate courses totaling 120 credits at level 1 or above.
Classification	(no definition)	The process of deciding the class of award that should be conferred on a student who has successfully completed the defined programme. For Honours degrees, the available classes are “first”, “upper second”, “lower second”, and “third”; for Ordinary and Masters degrees, the available classes are “distinction”, “merit”, and “pass”.

Term	Existing Definition	New Definition
Combined Honours degree	See entry for “Joint Honours”.	See entry for “Joint Honours degree”.
Compulsory course	(undefined)	A course that must be taken by all students on a particular programme.
Core	A compulsory part of a degree programme.	The set of compulsory courses in a particular programme.
Course	A unit of study on a particular topic with defined aims, intended learning outcomes, mode(s) of delivery, assessment scheme, and credit value.	A self-contained unit of study on a particular topic, with defined level, credit value, aims, intended learning outcomes, mode(s) of delivery, scheme of assessment, and possibly also pre- and co-requisites.
Credit	Value attributed to courses. 1 credit equates to 10 notional learning hours and the normal annual load for a full-time undergraduate is 120 credits.	A measure of workload, where 1 credit equates to 10 notional learning hours. The total annual workload for a full-time undergraduate student is normally 120 credits, and that for a full-time Masters student is normally 180 credits.
Curriculum	A set of courses usually associated with a student’s programme of study.	(unchanged)
Designated degree	Ordinary degree with depth required in one subject or group of subjects.	An Ordinary degree awarded following successful completion of a 360-credit programme in which a particular subject (or group of subjects) is studied in depth.
Diploma of Higher Education	Award requiring 240 credits with a minimum of 80 or 90 credits at level 2.	An award following successful completion of undergraduate courses totaling 240 credits, including at least 90 credits at level 2 or above.
External examiner	A subject expert appointed by the University to participate in the moderation of the assessment process.	(unchanged)
General degree	An Ordinary degree characterised by breadth of subjects studied.	An Ordinary degree awarded following successful completion of a 360-credit programme in which a broad range of subjects are studied.
Grade	An alphabetic designation (in the range “A” to “G”) which is awarded to a student on completion of a course to reflect the student’s attainment of the intended learning outcomes of that course.	An alphabetic designation (in the range “A” to “H”) that is awarded to a student on completion of a course to reflect the student’s attainment of the intended learning outcomes of that course.

Term	Existing Definition	New Definition
Grade points	A numerical statement of attainment determined on completion of a course. Paragraph 14 and Schedule C of the Code of Assessment describe fully.	The numerical equivalent of a grade, used in the classification of Ordinary and professional degrees. Paragraph 14 and Schedule C of the Code of Assessment describe fully.
Honours degree	The defined set of courses which leads to an Honours award.	A degree awarded following successful completion of a 480-credit programme, including at least 180 credits at levels 3 and H with at least 90 of these at level H, in which a particular subject (or group of subjects) is studied in depth. The programme includes a project or dissertation, normally of 20–40 credits.
Instrument of assessment	A means by which a course or part of a course may be assessed; it may be a written or oral examination, dissertation, report or other approved means.	(unchanged)
Integrated Honours degree	An integrated Honours programme is one that combines two or more subjects (which are not necessarily equally weighted) and which include at least one integrating course.	An Honours degree awarded following successful completion of a 480-credit programme in which two or more subjects are studied in depth, and which includes at least one integrating course. The subjects are not necessarily equally weighted in the programme's scheme of assessment.
Integrated Masters degree	(undefined)	A degree awarded following successful completion of a 600-credit programme, including at least 120 credits at level M, in which a particular subject is studied to an advanced level.
Joint Honours degree (or Combined Honours degree)	A joint Honours (or combined Honours) programme is one which combines two subjects which are normally equally weighted in the programme's scheme of assessment.	An Honours degree awarded following successful completion of a 480-credit programme in which two subjects are studied in depth. The subjects are normally equally weighted in the programme's scheme of assessment.
Level	Describes the standard at which a course is set. The available levels are: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, H and M.	An indication of the standard at which a particular course is taught and assessed. The available levels are 1, 2, 3, H (Honours), and M (Masters).

Term	Existing Definition	New Definition
Masters degree	(undefined)	A degree awarded following successful completion of a 180-credit postgraduate programme, including at least 150 credits at level M, in which a particular subject is studied to an advanced level. The programme includes a project or dissertation, normally of 60 credits.
Monitoring	Process whereby the aims, intended learning outcomes, delivery, and students' results for a course are reviewed.	(unchanged)
Elective course (or Option course)	A course which is for at least some students open to their choice; it may be compulsory for others on a different degree programme.	A course that may optionally be taken by students on a particular programme. (The same course may be compulsory for students on a different programme.)
Ordinary degree	Non-Honours degree requiring 360 course credits of which a minimum of 60 must have been acquired at level 3.	A degree awarded following successful completion of a 360-credit programme, including at least 60 credits at level 3. See also Designated degree and General degree
Postgraduate Certificate	(undefined)	An award following successful completion of a 60-credit programme, including at least 40 credits at level M.
Postgraduate Diploma	(undefined)	An award following successful completion of a 120-credit programme, including at least 90 credits at level M.
Programme	The defining set of courses which leads to an award.	A set of compulsory and elective courses leading to a defined award, with defined aims, intended learning outcomes, mode(s) of delivery, and scheme of assessment.