

Extract from SMG paper

Approaches to £20M Cost Reductions Progress Report to Court - 16 February 2011 (Extract)

1.1 Potential Academic Areas for Reshaping

1.1.1 School of Humanities - Archaeology and History The subject areas of Archaeology and History form part of the School of Humanities. Archaeology currently has an RAE score at the bottom of the Russell Group and a relatively low number of postgraduate research students. There are significant opportunities to achieve efficiencies in the delivery of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching through the rationalisation and sharing of modules between these two areas. The proposal is to merge these two areas into a single subject area. This rationalisation is likely to lead to the need for fewer staff.

1.1.2 School of Humanities - Classics

The subject area of Classics in the School of Humanities is underperforming in terms of research output. It currently has an RAE score at the bottom of the Russell Group and a low number of postgraduate research students. The proposal is to review the subject area for research sustainability and to explore options for cross-teaching elsewhere in the School. This would be facilitated by the co-location of Classics staff with staff from Archaeology: moving them from 65 Oakfield Avenue to the Gregory Building (to space vacated due to the closure of GUARD) and nearer to staff in the rest of the School, (primarily in University Gardens). The move would facilitate the planning of the sale of properties owned by the University on Oakfield Avenue. The review is likely to lead to the need for fewer staff.

The School of Geography and Earth Science have also requested co-location in the Gregory Building and an option appraisal would be part of the consultation.

1.1.3 School of Modern Languages and Cultures The School of Modern Languages and Cultures (SMLC), has been subject to a number of reviews, the most recent of which reported at the beginning of 2010. The review made comment on the poor overall research performance of the School (particularly Slavonic Studies, German, Italian and Hispanic Studies) and two of the report's recommendations were aimed particularly at providing space and concentrating resources to improve the research situation, namely: to concentrate new investments in the areas where research sustainability might be achieved; and to consider withdrawing from offering some languages to honours level. Since the review Undergraduate recruitment has remained buoyant but research performance has yet to show significant signs of improvement (particularly research income) and applications to taught postgraduate courses is less than a tenth of the next school in the College. The College would like to consider the implications of three options for SMLC:

1. To withdraw from 3 language areas, no longer offering them to honours level. This would release resource for reinvestment in the most sustainable research areas in the school (French and Hispanic).
2. To withdraw from 2 language areas, no longer offering them to honours level.
3. To preserve joint honours programmes in the majority of the main areas of activity, and single honours in the remainder, moving staff to teaching only contracts as appropriate.

1.2 Potential Academic Areas for Withdrawal

1.2.1 School of Education - Open Programme and Certificate in Higher Education The University would like to consider withdrawing from some or all Open Programmes Courses and the associated Certificate in Higher Education.

The School of Education runs a suite of Adult Continuing Education (ACE) courses. Most of the courses have no entry qualifications, no formal examinations, and usually no requirement of previous subject knowledge although many do feature an assessment option which, if passed, awards credit towards an Award in Continuing Education. The courses also act as a foundation for Certificate of Higher Education courses. ACE courses generate some income but they are also underpinned by SFC income that could be deployed elsewhere in the University where there are seen to be opportunities to grow research excellence and expand international recruitment.

The Strategy for the School of Education is to drive forward the frontiers of learning knowledge, curriculum and assessment in education from pre-5 to higher education. The School has plans to expand and diversify civic and community education programmes including the revitalization of the Masters programme in Community Development to attract home and international students.

Significantly there are other, and larger, providers in the City of Glasgow of courses similar to those offered under the Open Programme.

Detailed calculations are required but it is envisaged that closing the ACE courses will reduce salary costs, offset by the loss of income. In addition removing the need to provide space for some of the courses and staff will facilitate reduction in Estate footprint.

One large aspect of the Open Programme is the provision of "recreational" language courses. The review of the Open Programme would need to interact with the review of School of Modern Languages and Cultures to determine whether new opportunities exist in this area. This was flagged by the review of SMLC that reported in January 2010.

The consultation would ensure that appropriate alternative paths were available to the relatively small number of students who use the Open Programme and Certificate in Higher Education courses as a means to accessing full undergraduate degree programmes.

Many students on the Open Programme only commit to study for a semester at a time. The consultation would need to ensure that appropriate processes are adopted to look after students with longer term commitments.

1.2.2 School of Interdisciplinary Studies (Dumfries) - Liberal Arts Programmes When the Dumfries Campus was established over 10 years ago the Liberal Arts programmes provided the core activity. Over time new undergraduate courses in Environmental Stewardship and Primary Education together with postgraduate courses in Carbon Management have become the dominant activities. The Liberal Arts degrees are far less popular with undergraduates than 10 years ago and they no longer fit the School's or College's strategies. Stopping delivery of these courses might result in savings in salary costs after the current student cohorts have been taught out.

1.2.3 School of Medicine - Nursing

The College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences has a clear set of research priorities as articulated in the strategic plans of the University, MVLS and Research Institutes. Current research activity in the Subject area of Nursing is relatively small and not currently integrated with the College's Research Institutes. There is currently an over provision of graduate nurses in Scotland and there are discussions within Government to reduce the number of nurses being educated in Scottish Universities.

Currently graduates from the undergraduate degree programme in Nursing are finding it very difficult to find employment as nurses. These facts combine to prompt the College to withdraw from teaching undergraduate nursing. There will be an eventual saving in salaries. Withdrawal from Nursing would also allow the University to vacate buildings in Oakfield Avenue.

1.2.4 School of Social and Political Sciences - Anthropology and Social Work The College is no longer taking applications for entry into undergraduate programmes in Anthropology. The University has already signalled its intention to withdraw from the Glasgow School of Social Work. There is a need to review staffing levels as the degree programmes are "taught out".

1.2.5 School of Social and Political Sciences - Centre for Drug Misuse Research The Centre for Drug Misuse (CDMR) was reviewed approximately 12 months ago and a business plan was agreed to ensure that the activities of the Centre were making a sufficient financial contribution to the College. The Centre is currently falling behind the business plan and some staff have expressed an interest in voluntary severance or early retirement. The College does not propose to continue activity in this area. Complete closure of CDMR would save salary costs and rental on their office space on Dumbarton Road, offset by loss of contribution from research grants.