

Programmes Committee (PC)

Tuesday 26 January 2020

10:00-12:00

Present

Dr Clemens Brechtelsbauer (Chair), Dr Lorraine Craig, Ms Michaela Flegrova, Professor Richard Green, Dr Kate Ippolito, Dr Philip Power, Dr Felicitas Starr-Egger, Dr Mike Tennant (Deputy Chair), Dr Vijay Tymms, Mr Scott Tucker, Dr Jeffrey Vernon, Ms Judith Webster, Ms Men-Yeut Wong (Secretary), Ms Betty Yue and Professor Yun Xu.

Apologies

Ms Kate Ippolito

In Attendance

Ms Amy Huynh

1 Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and apologies, as above, were noted.

2 PC.2020.11 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 2 November 2020 were approved as an accurate record.

3 Matters Arising

3.1 New programme proposal - MRes Business (2 Years, Full-time)

3.1.1 The Committee considered a response from the Business School to recommendations agreed at the 2 November 2020 meeting of the Committee.

3.1.2 The Programmes Committee would like to seek further assurance from the programme team with regards to the following:

- To provide a clear rationale for justifying the need for a two-year full-time postgraduate taught programme at Imperial College rather than competitor programmes. It was noted that a Business 2+3 PhD programme would normally take a student longer to complete in comparison with other disciplines;
- To provide a clear rationale for the 135 ECTS total credits of the programme as this is a clear exception to the Regulations for Taught Programmes of Study;
- Consider piloting one of the three pathways in the first instance with clearly defined success criteria to enable the introduction of the other pathways. The advertising strategy of the new programme will need to be agreed to ensure full compliance with CMA/OfS regulations and standards;
- Consultation with the Educational Development Unit to ensure that the programme learning outcomes reflect what students will be able to do at the end of the programme and that the module learning outcomes map on to the programme level learning outcomes.
- That an exit award for the programme would be introduced, noting that students who do not wish to complete the programme after the first year for either academic or personal reasons, would exit with a PG Certificate or a PG Diploma. The PG Certificate/Diploma would not be advertised and would only be offered at the discretion of the Business School's Exam Board.

3.1.3 It was agreed that a Working Group would be formed to address the points above, chaired by the Deputy Chair of the Programmes Committee. The Business School were invited to name a representative from the programme team to join the working party. The Programmes Committee recognised the importance and the urgency of the matter to the programme team, hence the Chair of the Programmes Committee had agreed to call an extraordinary meeting

of the committee to consider the Group's response as soon as it is ready. Provided the committee agrees to approve the proposal, it will then be forwarded to the Chair of the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee with recommendation for final sign-off.

3.1.4 **Post Committee note:**

The Committee noted that as recommended by the Programmes Committee a Working Group had been initiated and met 16th February; receiving a clear articulation of the rationale for the proposed programme not aligning to the College's Regulations. Paper QAEC.2020.55 presented an academic rationale for both the programme duration and credit weighting highlighting the key points below:

- The MRes is in part a pre-requisite for the PhD as well as a research orientated Masters programme. The Business School PhD programme is small (entry of around 15 students per annum across 4 disciplines) but PhD, students are vital to the research culture and environment of the School. Imperial College Business School is one of the most research-intensive schools in Europe and maintaining this position requires a healthy PhD programme;
- Completion of a PhD to international standards in the social sciences requires that students acquire a strong taught foundation which provides both breadth and depth of knowledge in their disciplines, this cannot be gained in a one-year taught MRes programme;
- Currently in the social sciences sector, it is not standard practice to undertake a postdoctoral placement following PhD completion. Job market candidates will typically enter employment as assistant professors. In order to succeed, it is necessary for candidates to have acquired the appropriate level of knowledge within their discipline;
- The one-year MRes of 90 ECTS does not provide sufficient coursework to equip PhDs to complete in 4 years to an international standard. This means that many of the Business School's students have applied for extensions in order to complete the PhD;
- It is difficult to judge a student's ability to complete a PhD based on the 3-month research project that can be accommodated within a one-year MRes. Students who are not suitable may thus be accepted and subsequently struggle to complete the PhD;
- The two-year MRes model is increasingly the standard in the UK and Europe in the disciplines of the Business School and several of the Business School's leading competitors have recently introduced two-year MRes programmes with similar structures to the one proposed. In the USA the taught component of the PhD programme is even longer, with up to 3 years assessed course work.
- The Business School's current one year 90 ECTS programme is not attracting the students of the calibre they should be attracting given the calibre of the faculty and their research-intensive culture.
- The design of 135 ECTS is based on the need for sufficient taught module work plus a research project of suitable length to judge a student's ability to successfully complete a PhD. This research project can then feed into the student's research that will form part of their PhD. The research project that can be completed in a one-year MRes is not sufficiently in-depth to generally allow this.

3.1.5 The Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee approved the programme subject to the following conditions:

- That the work students are required to undertake over the summer term in year one is recognised, and that the learning hours are formally represented as a credit-bearing module.
- That the workload for the Research Project module in year two is more accurately represented in terms of ECTS, with a recommendation that this module is 60 ECTS.
- That the total ECTS for the programme is revised, to more accurately reflect the required workload, with a view to making the programme 180 ECTS.

Items for consideration

4 Curriculum Review

4.1 PC.2020.12 MSc Patient Safety

4.2 The Programmes Committee considered the redesigned programme above from the Department of Surgery and Cancer as part of Curriculum Review to take effect from October 2021. The Committee also received a major modification proposal to replace the on-campus programme with a fully online version with effect from October 2021.

4.3 The Programmes Committee noted the innovative use learning journals and that the reviewed programme had been developed to become more international and interactive for students.

4.4 The Committee have agreed upon the following recommendations:

- The Committee suggested that it would be useful to make more evident in the programme specification that the ethical and legal aspects of patient safety is covered within the modules taught on the programme;
- Further information on the Reflective Learning Journals:
 - Will students be taught how to write journals and reflective statements, will students receive an introduction as to how these journals will be completed?
 - How much writing would this now add to the students overall workload?
- Confirm whether there is a variation to the College Regulations as reference is made to “elements” and “compensated fail”. For the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, no more than 10ECTS can be awarded as a compensated pass and for the award of the MSc no more than 15 credits awarded as a Compensated Pass.

4.5 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021 subject to the recommendations noted above.

5 Major Modifications to Existing Programmes

Faculty of Engineering

5.1 PC.2020.13 Department of Chemical Engineering Chemical Engineering (Occasional FT Programme)

5.1.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Chemical Engineering to request an exception to the College’s Academic Regulations- module credit size for students enrolled on the occasional (exchange) programmes with effect from October 2020.

5.1.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal in principle to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee where further discussion should be held to approve an exception to the regulations as well as considering how this could affect Occasional programmes across College before setting a precedent. The Department are advised that alternative module names may need to be assigned to distinguish the version for Occasional students (i.e. Fluid Mechanics 1 (Occasional)). Consideration needs to be given to ensure that Occasional students are not disadvantaged by taking smaller modules and having to then complete multiple assessments across modules.

5.2 PC.2020.14 Department of Materials

JFM2 Materials Science and Engineering - 4-year MEng
BJ95 Biomaterials and Tissue Engineering - 4-year MEng
J5H8 Materials with Nuclear Engineering - 4-year MEng
JF52 Materials Science and Engineering - 3-year BEng
J5N2 Materials with Management - 3-year BEng

- 5.2.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Materials to make changes to two learning outcomes for module 'MATE50001 Mathematics and Computing II' with effect from October 2021.
- 5.2.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2021

5.3 PC.2020.15 MEng & BEng Molecular Bioengineering

- 5.3.1 The Programmes Committee considered an in-session modification from the Department of Bioengineering to remove one lab report worth 7.5% of the module and reweight the associated problem sheet from 17.5% to 25% for module BIOE50009 'Molecules, Materials and Measurement 2' for one academic year with effect from October 2020.
- 5.3.2 The Programmes Committee noted that the lab report could not be completed by students due to a compromise in social distancing with students working in pairs. The Deputy President (Education), ICU, raised concern that student consultation had not taken place and that consultation should have been had with the student representative to discuss the changes. The Committee had agreed that the Department seek student consultation from the Student Representatives and upon the receipt of a positive response, Chair's Action will be considered on behalf of the Programmes Committee.

5.3.3 Post Committee note:

It was agreed that the College's guidance on temporary modifications due to Covid-19 requested that programme teams communicate changes to students rather than consulting students regarding changes made to programmes and/or modules. Whilst the Programmes Committee had initially agreed that the Department consult with the students, the Committee recognised the time sensitivity in the change being made. For future changes, best practice would be to consult all affected students ahead of proposing a modification.

5.4 PC.2020.16 MSc Biomedical Engineering

- 5.4.1 The Programmes Committee considered an in-session modification from the Department of Bioengineering to remove the assessed practical write-up and reweight the final exam to be 100% of the module 'BIOE97057 Engineering in Cancer Therapy' for one academic year with effect from October 2020.
- 5.4.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with immediate effect

5.5 PC.2020.17 Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering
MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering with Management
MEng Electrical and Electronic Engineering with a Year Abroad
MEng Electrical and Information Engineering
MEng Electronic and Information Engineering with a Year Abroad

- 5.5.1 The Programmes Committee considered an in-session modification from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to suspend the module 'ELEC97046 Human Centred Robotics' for one academic year with effect from October 2020.

5.5.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with immediate effect

5.6 PC.2020.20 MSc Engineering Fluid Mechanics for the Offshore Coastal and Built Environments

5.6.1 The Programmes Committee considered an in-session modification from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to make changes the assessment for CIVE96016 'Fluid Mechanics Fundamentals' with effect from October 2020.

5.6.2 The Programmes Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee for approval with immediate effect

Faculty of Medicine

5.7 PC.2020.18 Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine- MBBS

5.7.1 The Programmes Committee considered a proposal from the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine to introduce a new longitudinal course, Digital Health – Digital Technologies in Health and Healthcare with effect from October 2020.

5.7.2 The Programmes Committee recommends that the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee approve the proposal with effect from October 2020.

6 Chair's Report

The Programmes Committee noted action taken by the Chair on behalf of the Committee.

Imperial College Business School

Major Modification (Effective October 2020), N290S MSc Business Analytics Online

The module leaders would like to update the learning outcomes for these modules to better reflect the content and aims of the modules.

Minor Modification (Effective October 2020), N302 MSc Finance & Accounting / N301 MSc Finance / N303 MSc Investment & Wealth Management / N34G MSc Risk Management & Financial Engineering / N305 MSc Fintech.

A proposal to introduce a new elective module for Summer 2020 'Corporate Finance for Practitioners (International Elective)'.

Minor Modification (Effective October 2020), N1UF MSc International Management

A proposal to make changes to the exam duration from two to three hours.

Major Modification (Effective October 2020), N1UA24 Executive MBA / N1UB21 Weekend MBA

A proposal to make the structural changes to the module BUSI97019 Strategic Problem Solving

Minor Modification (Effective October 2020), N1UQ MRes Business

A proposal for the MSc International Health Management module 'BUSI97084 Health Economics' to be made available to MRes students as an elective.

Introduction of an existing module as a Short Course- BUSI97088 Managing Change & Innovation in Healthcare (Effective October 2020).

Faculty of Engineering (Deputy Chair's Action)**Major modification (Effective Spring 2021), GH65 MEng Electronic and Information Engineering**

A proposal to offer the following Department of Computing modules to students on the above programme:

COMP97112 Deep Learning
COMP97015 Cryptography Engineering
COMP97128 Program Analysis
COMP97038 Software Reliability

Major Modification (Effective October 2020), F6UC MSc Applied Computational Science and Engineering

A proposal to make changes to the programme structure of the above programme.

Faculty of Natural Sciences**Major modification (Effective October 2020), UG Life Sciences**

A proposal from the Department of Life Sciences to make structural changes to the module LIFE50024 Vertebrate Form and Evolution.

Major Modification (Effective October 2020), UG Physics

BSc Physics
BSc Physics with Theoretical Physics
MSci Physics
MSci Physics with a Year Abroad
MSci Physics with Theoretical Physics

A proposal from the Department of Physics to make changes to the admissions criteria.

Major Modification (Effective October 2020),

A proposal from the Centre for Environmental Policy to correct error in the module categorisation which was introduced into the Programme Specification form during Curriculum Review. This resulted modules being classed as "core" rather than "compulsory". The Centre request to retrospectively change the module categorisation to what was originally intended.

Faculty of Medicine**Major modification (Effective October 2020), MSc Immunology**

A proposal from the Department of Immunology and Inflammation to introduce a standalone Module/Short Course for credit option in: IMMU70001 Principles of Immunology and IMMU70004 Immunology in Health and Disease.

A proposal to make a change to the summative assessment within module IMMU70002 Experimental Immunology. Removal of the Pair work assessment and transfer of mark to the lab book.

A proposal to introduce a new 15ECTS module. The programme currently offers only a PG Certificate exit point. However, should students leave the programme after all taught modules, they would lose the effort produced on Module 4 which is worth 15ECTS. We would like to introduce a new module, Critical Mastery of Immunology – literature review worth 15ECTS as an exit option only for students to gain a total of 60ECTS and therefore exit the programme with a PG Diploma.

Major modification (Effective October 2020), School of Public health

A proposal from the School to Reduce the 7.5 ECTS (10 weeks long) modules PUBH97006 – Quality Improvement in Healthcare and PUBH97007 – Global Health Challenges in each stream to 5 ECTS (5 weeks long) modules.

A proposal to make changes to the module Health Economics- a core module which had a change in ECTS from 7.5 ECTS to 5 ECTS and was not reported as a major modification in 2019-20.

7 Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 30 March 2021, 10:00-13:00

Tuesday 18 May 2021, 10:00-13:00

Tuesday 20 July 2021, 10:00-13:00