

## Programmes Committee (PC)

Tuesday 11 September 2018  
10:00-13:00 Room 408, 4th Floor, Central Library.

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### Present

Dr Edgar Meyer (Chair), Dr Harveen Chugh, Dr Lorraine Craig, Ms Lucy Heming, Professor Jonathan Mestel, Professor Sue Smith, Dr Roberto Trotta, Dr Vijay Tymms, Ms Men-Yeut Wong (Secretary) and Ms Betty Yue.

### In Attendance

Ms Jolande Bot-Vos & Dr Sarah Wilsey

### Apologies

Ms Jo Horsburgh, Ms Kate Ippolito, Mr Alejandro Luy, Ms Ute Thiermann, Mr Rob Tomkies and Ms Judith Webster.

#### 1 Welcome and Apologies

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

#### 2 PC.2018.01 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 June 2018 were approved as an accurate record.

#### 3 PC.2018.02 Programmes Committee Membership for 2018-19

3.1 The Chair informed members that a new Deputy Chair had been nominated, Dr. Mike Tennant from the Centre for Environmental Policy, Faculty of Natural Sciences.

3.2 The Chair also welcomed the addition of the new student representatives for the academic year: Mr Rob Tomkies, President of the Imperial College Union; Mr Alejandro Luy, Deputy President (Education) Imperial College Union and Ms Ute Thiermann, President of the Graduate School Union.

#### 4 Curriculum Review Updates

#### 5 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising to discuss.

### ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

#### 6 New Programme Proposals

##### 6.1 PC.2018.03 MSc Management

6.1.1 The Committee welcomed the Academic Lead Jolande Bot-Vos and Dr Sarah Wilsey the Assistant Director of MSc Management Programmes from Imperial College Business School who had been invited to present the proposal of the above programme to the Committee.

6.1.2 Members of the Committee were reminded that the June meeting of the Programmes Committee had considered a proposal from the School to rename its existing MSc Management programme to 'MSc International Management' with effect from September 2019.

6.1.3 The new programme proposal presented had been for a new redesigned programme, the Business is currently reviewing its portfolio of MSc programmes with the aim to create and

exceptional learning environment for each and every student and to become the School of reference for high quality students interested in a career in management.

- 6.1.4 The MSc Management programme, which was established in 2005, has played a pivotal role in the School's impact in pre-experience education. The School recognises its contributions across a range of strategic, financial and reputational dimensions. However, a critical set of internal and external challenges and opportunities have been identified over the past year which require an effective response.
- 6.1.5 On the existing MSc Management programme, students with very diverse academic backgrounds, including students with a background in business are accepted onto the programmes. The School reported that although pre-study online modules had been put in place as well as support classes during term time, the School had not been able to create a learning environment which met the learning needs of a diverse student body. The new MSc in Management aims equip students with a thorough understanding of business and organisations, as well as practical business and managerial skills that will serve them in their future careers in management in the private, voluntary and public domain or in their pursuit of further academic studies.
- 6.1.6 Concerns were raised by members of the Committee around how the new programme could be perceived as less refined in comparison to the MSc International Management programme. The programme team were advised to provide a clearer narrative to explain the difference demands required by the diverse cohort background, how the two programmes differ and highlight the similarities including the shared elective offering of modules.
- 6.1.7 Discussions were held around the primer modules, how the School monitors the completion of these pre-study modules and the support provided to student who fail these modules.
- 6.1.8 The Committee agreed upon the following recommendations:

The Programme Team should:

- Review the learning outcomes of the new modules to ensure that students can clearly understand what they should be able to understand or demonstrate upon completion of the module, the learning outcomes should also be easily understood by students without a background in business, discussions held by the Committee noted that the current outcomes had been vague and could be further developed;
- Make clear to the target market of the MSc Management and the MSc International Management programmes that they are not perceived as a standard and an advanced programme. The Programmes Committee received a clear narrative of the programmes intention during the meeting and this should be distinguished in the Programme Overview to explain that the two programmes will initially have different tracks/Phases to accommodate the different backgrounds of (old MSc Management) cohort but the final term for both programmes would be the same where students will share the same pool of electives;
- Emphasise the benefits of the Career and Leadership module that runs yearlong and what this will offer students as a module outline is not available;
- Clarify in the programme specification that before starting the programmes if students fail the online interactive primers in Maths, Data Analysis, Finance and Plagiarism, there will be further support and signposting available;
- Include reference to the workshops available to students in the programme overview section of the programme specification (Research Skills and Writing Workshops);
- Make assurances that that there will be guaranteed teaching space and resources available to accommodate students of the new programmes;
- Review the use of 'lifelong learning' in the final learning outcome listed in the programme specification to futureproof the programme as these skills could expire;

- Review the 8 ECTS allocated to the Management Capstone in the module outline, the programme specification states that this should be weighted as 10 ECTS;
- Review the module caveat in the indicative module list, 'A maximum of 6 ECTS at approved exchange partner institution...' could this be revised to 'no more than one module';
- Include more information about the exchange partner institution programme in the programme overview as this is a unique selling point, what activities would students take part in during this week.

6.1.9 The Committee also shared comments from the Imperial College Union representatives who raised concerns around the similarity of programme content with the two programmes (MSc Management and MSc International Management); the perception that students and employers may have of the MSc Management appearing as a more basic programme within the MSc Business portfolio of programmes. The student representatives also reported that the "Monitoring of Students' personal development and welfare" section should be stronger and include a more proactive signposting of College and Union support, counselling and advice services.

6.1.8 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance & Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from September 2019 subject to the above recommendations.

## **7 Major Modifications to Existing Programmes**

There were no major modifications to existing programmes

## **8 Minor Modifications to Existing Programmes**

### **8.1 PC.2018.04 MSc Environmental Engineering Suite**

8.1.1 The Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to change the assessments of the C19-FM01 Hydroinformatics module with effect from October 2018.

8.1.2 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance & Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2018.

### **8.2 UG Physics**

8.2.1 The Committee considered a proposal from the Department of Physics to include an element of coursework within the assessment structure of the P3.12a Physics of the Universe module with effect from October 2018.

8.2.2 It was reported that there had previously been no coursework marks attached to the module and the proposal presented had been to include a coursework element with a 4% weighting associated with the pre-reading quizzes to encourage uptake.

8.2.3 The Committee agreed to recommend the proposal to the Quality Assurance & Enhancement Committee for approval with effect from October 2018.

## **9 Suspensions and Withdrawals of Existing Programmes**

There were no suspensions or withdrawals of programmes to consider.

## **10 Chair's Actions**

The following actions were taken by the Chair on behalf of the Committee:

**Major Modification (Effective October 2018): Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery and Cancer, MRes Biomedical Research.**

**Major Modification (Effective October 2018): Faculty of Medicine, Department of Surgery and Cancer, MRes Biomedical Research.**

A proposal from the Department to withdraw the below streams which have been suspended for the past two academic years:

- MRes Biomedical Research (Cardiovascular Science, Technology and Medicine)
- MRes Biomedical Research (Biomedicine and Bioengineering in Osteoarthritis)
- MRes Biomedical Research (Inflammation Science)
- MRes Biomedical Research (Personalised Healthcare)

**Major Modification (Effective October 2019 (2018-19 recruitment cycle)): Faculty of Engineering, Department of Materials, MRes Nuclear Energy.**

A proposal from the Department to withdraw the above programme.

**Major Modification (Effective October 2019 (2018-19 recruitment cycle)): Faculty of Engineering, Department of Computing, MRes Advanced Computing.**

A proposal from the Department to suspend the above programme for a further academic year.

**Major Modification (Effective October 2018): Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, MSc Engineering Fluid Mechanics for the Offshore, Coastal and Built Environments**

The Committee received a proposal post Committee from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to change the assessment strategy of the above programme with effect from October 2018.

**Deputy Chair's Action (Action taken by Dr Lorraine Craig on behalf of the Chair due to a conflict of interest):**

**Major Modification (Effective September 2018): Imperial College Business School, MSc Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Management.**

A proposal from the School to remove the following three learning outcomes from the module BS1408 Project Management:

- Select a project management approach fit to the specifics of a given project
- Apply project and portfolio management approaches and tools to balance the need to develop current offerings and foster innovation in new markets
- Develop a project-as-business perspective for learning and capability development.

**Major Modification (Effective September 2018): Imperial College Business School, MSc Climate Change, Management & Finance.**

A proposal from the School to withdraw the module BS1909 Change Management and Leadership and to introduce a new core BS1920 Innovation in CleanTech and Climate Change Solutions.

**Rationale:**

After reviewing the module and taking student feedback into account, it is clear that the learning objectives of the module are being met more effectively by the series of external speakers, exemplifying business and policy leaders, as well as team building and soft skills workshops being run in parallel to the curriculum. Furthermore, operationally, it is not possible to staff this module for 2018/19 as the current module leader is unavailable next year.

It is therefore proposed to replace it with a module on Innovation, following feedback from students that this was a key dimension missing from the programme, and only addressed superficially despite being so important for addressing the issue of climate change. It also fits

in perfectly with the College's and Business School's missions, and the Business School has excellent in house expertise to deliver it effectively.

**11 Items to Note**

There were no items to note.

**12 Any Other Business**

There were no other areas of business to discuss

**13 Dates of Future Meetings**

Tuesday 16 October 2018, 10:00 - 13:00, Room 408, 4th Floor, Central Library.

Tuesday 27 November 2018, 10:00 - 13:00, Boardroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Faculty Building.

Tuesday 8 January 2019, 10:00 - 13:00, Ballroom, 58 Prince's Gate.

Tuesday 19 February 2019, 10:00 - 13:00, Ballroom, 58 Prince's Gate.

Tuesday 26 March 2019, 10:00 - 13:00, Ballroom, 58 Prince's Gate.

Tuesday 7 May 2019, 10:00 - 13:00, Ballroom, 58 Prince's Gate.