

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

Minute of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 13 October 2016

Present: Professor P McGeorge (Convener), Dr T Baker, Mr L Fuller, Professor A Jenkinson, Professor C Kee, Dr G Mackintosh, Professor K Shennan and Professor J Masthoff with Ms K Christie, Mr P Fantom, Dr G Mackintosh, Mr D Philips, Professor R Wells, and Ms E Hay (Minute Secretary) in attendance

Apologies: Mr C Anucha, Mr C Duncan, Dr B Scharlau, Dr S Tucker and Ms P Spence, Dr R Bernard

COLLABORATIVE PROVISION: TRANSNATIONAL EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL (TNE)

(Report copy filed as UCTL/131016/001)

(Background information copy filed as UCTL/131016/002)

- 1.1 Members of the Committee received the report in respect of a University led visit to Lancaster University Ghana (LUG) in addition to a cover paper providing background information regarding the University's proposed relationship with a delivery partner to deliver transnational education. Members of the Committee noted that the header 'for routine approval' on the cover paper was an error and that the paper was presented as background information.
- 1.2 The Committee were informed of the opportunity open to the University in the development of an Aberdeen campus in Kigali, Rwanda, with TNE as delivery partner, in a structure similar to that operated at LUG. Members of the Committee were asked to consider the quality assurance of academic provision at LUG and the potential for this to be replicated by the University in partnership with TNE.
- 1.3 The Committee noted that the panel had conducted a review visit to LUG in which they, observed how LUG operated, the quality of the infrastructure on-site and met with staff and students. Members of the panel noted the spirit of the campus and the strong links with the University of Lancaster. The panel also noted the extra-curricular activities of LUG students, engagement with local community and the positive experiences of their student population and their interaction with the University of Lancaster Students' Association. The panel noted their confidence in the ability of such a model in providing an equivalent student experience to that provided in Aberdeen.
- 1.4 Members of the Committee noted that, following detailed consideration, the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) were content to approve TNE as a provider of Education on behalf of the University, subject to strict adherence to the University's Quality Assurance processes.
- 1.5 Members of the Committee sought clarification regarding the ability of the partner to contextualise elements of the curriculum. The Committee were informed that elements would need to be contextualised in some subject areas and that this would be undertaken in consultation with the University. Members of the Committee noted that the extent to which contextualisation would be required, would be dependent on the subject taught.
- 1.6 Members of the Committee noted concern regarding the resource implications for course-coordinators who would be required to have significant input in the transfer of knowledge

between University discipline and partner. Members of the Committee were reminded of the role an appointed link-tutor would play in the process, acting as liaison in this regard. The Committee noted that the role of link-tutor should be taken up by an individual not only interested in the role, but afforded the time to do it. The Committee were assured that the costing of link-tutor's had been taken into account as part of the project business plan.

- 1.7 Members of the Committee noted some concern regarding the financing and/or resourcing of the project. The Committee were reminded that the role of the UCTL was to comment on the quality of the academic provision as provided by TNE in partnership with the University of Lancaster and the ability of the University, working with TNE, to replicate this. The Committee noted that issues related to finance and costing would be considered by the Project Board, reporting to Operating Board and Court.
- 1.8 Overall, the Committee were content to approve that the UoA partner with TNE if appropriately resourced, based upon the Quality Assurance model, and evidenced by the University of Lancaster in partnership with TNE at LUG.