

LONDON'S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

33 RDC MEMBERSHIP 2010-11

Noted

Received

35B.2 An oral report by the

35D **MPhil/PhD Upgrade Process in the Department of Chemistry**

[RDC Minute 19.4, 21 March 2011]

Noted

35D.1 At the last RDC meeting, the DGT in the Department of Chemistry outlined the Department's process for upgrade from MPhil to PhD. It was agreed that a note would be circulated to describe this in more detail. The note was attached at APPENDIX RDC 3/23 (10-11)

Reported

35D.2 Dr Brown reported that the system used in Chemistry helped to monitor the progress of the large number of MPhil/PhD students registered in the Department. Upgrade took place at 15 months for all students and upgrade interviews took place during the same week for all students where possible. This worked well for both students and staff.

35DE **Induction for Taught Degree Graduate Students**

[RDC Minute 20, 21 March 2011]

Noted

35E.1 At the last RDC meeting the Chair reported that with the increase in taught degree graduate students it was difficult for the Graduate School to manage induction sessions for all taught graduate students. FGTs were requested to consider how induction sessions for these students might be managed in future.

Discussion

35E.2 It was noted that there were no lecture theatres large enough for all taught Masters students to attend an induction at the same time. The Director of Student Services noted that this might be an item to be discussed by Education Committee because it related to taught students rather than research students.

ACTION: Karen Wishart to refer to EdCom

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MRES AND MPHIL/PHD APPLICATIONS FOR2011 upgrade for MBER0-1147TD (10/11) kage induction

37 **PUBLICATION OF MRES DISSERTATIONS**

Ms Margaret Stone, UCL Library Services, attended for this item.

Received

37.1 At APPENDIX RDC 3/25 (10-11) a note on the proposal to publish MRes

- (d) sufficient potential supervisors within the unit in order to act as principal supervisors as well as others engaged in research relating to potential students' research interests;
- (e) the opportunity to participate in a staff/student consultative committee;
- (f) a unit-level committee that is either solely responsible for the oversight of research degrees or has it as part of its remit;
- (g) the necessary administrative support.

Discussion

- 38.3 RDC agreed that the above proposals be approved. It was agreed that the RDC Chair, on behalf of the Committee, would assess applications from new units or research groups to ensure that the above criteria were met.

RESOLVED

- 38.4 That the approval process for new academic units/departments, proposed by the Director of Student Services, be approved. All applications would be considered by the RDC Chair, on behalf of the Committee. RDC would be informed when a new department or unit had been approved to supervise research students.

ACTION: Karen Wishart to arrange for dissemination of the above requirements and their inclusion in the Academic Manual.

39 MRES PROGRESSION TO AN ASSOCIATED RESEARCH DEGREE PROGRAMME

Received

- 39.1 At APPENDIX RDC 3/27 (10-11) a note on amendments to the regulations relating to registration and progression from an MRes to its associated /MCID 10 42002 i002 i002 ipE62 research groupsEngDen aPf of D tha(M)1oughof 2yved t tomit abin 002cesatens-1(mee-1.15e F

Reported

- 40.2 The Director of Student Services noted that during 2009-10 four student grievances were submitted by research students. The grounds for the grievances covered a range of categories including deficient supervision, alleged bias in the examination, not allowed to continue due to unsatisfactory academic progress, and transfer from MPhil to PhD not allowed. In three of the three cases submitted it was found that there was no case to answer, the fourth case proceeded to a full Panel meeting and this case was partially upheld.

Discussion

- 40.3 It was noted that the number of complaints from research students was very low. This was against the national trend which had seen an increase in grievances from research students. The Chair noted that this was due to the efforts of DGTs and FGTs who resolved problems before a grievance resulted. It was noted that often problems/complaints were encountered at the time of upgrade and/or the viva voce examination.
- 40.4 There was some discussion regarding the guidelines and information available to MPhil/PhD examiners. The Chair reported that there was currently a sub-group of RDC looking at the information and guidelines available on the viva voce examination.

41 **ACADEMIC REGULATIONS FOR STUDENTS: PROFESSIONAL DOCTORATES**

Noted

- 41.1 At the GEESC meeting on 18 May 2010 the FGT for Life Sciences reported that the Faculty was reviewing the regulations for the specialist doctorates in psychology and language sciences.

Received

- 41.2 At APPENDIX RDC 3/29 (10-11) the revised Academic Regulations for Students: Professional Doctorates. This document had been reviewed by the Graduate School Management Board and the Curricular Development and Examiners Office. The final draft was submitted to RDC for approval.

Discussion

- 41.3 It was noted that professional doctorates were unique in that they included a taught component, a research component and also a practical component. The taught doctorates resulted in a professional qualification, for example in clinical or educational psychology, speech and language therapy and dentistry.

RESOLVED

- 41.4 RDC approved the revised Academic Regulations for Students: Professional Doctorates, these would be added to the Registry website. The Chair thanked Professor Roth for his hard work in producing the revised regulations.

42 **THESES IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Noted

- 42.1 At its meeting on 23 October 2009 GEESC received a paper from Dr Stephanie Bird, FGT in Arts and Humanities, on the proposal to allow research students, in specified departments, the option to write their PhD theses in a language other than English. This currently required approval by the RDC Chair following rules and precedents set originally by the University of London. Following discussion at the meeting the proposal was revised and resubmitted to GEESC on 23 February 2010. Following further discussion GEESC agreed to refer the matter to AC for approval.
- 42.2 Following the disestablishment of GEESC at the end of 2009-10 session and the establishment of Research Degrees Committee, the proposal for theses in foreign languages required approval by RDC rather than AC.
- 42.3 Dr Bird had discussed the proposal with appropriate Deans and the RDC Chair had
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44 **CHAIRS BUSINESS**

44A **Late Enrolment Fee**

Noted

44A.1 At the last meeting, under Reserved Business the Chair noted that there had been an increase in the number of requests for the suspension of regulations to allow delayed enrolment. The Chair proposed that the late enrolment fee should be raised. The Dean of Students (Academic) supported this decision and the late enrolment fee had been increased to £100. This would take effect from 2011-2012 session.

45 **RDC MEETINGS 2011-2012**

Note

45 Meetings for RDC in session 2011-2012 have been scheduled as follows:

- Thursday 13 October 2011 at 10am
- Tuesday 6 March 2012 at 10am
- Monday 11 June 2012 at 10am