

**Executive Summary of Business for  
University Teaching and Learning  
Committee**



Title	<b>Validation Status Report</b>
Author	Samantha Bromfield
Type	Report, for information
Date	November 2012
Strategic context	
Summary	Summary report of the validation of BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics
Essential reading	
Risk analysis	
Resource implications	
Consultation	
Future actions	
Effective date of introduction	n/a
Recommendation	To <b>NOTE</b> the report and that the conditions have been met and signed off by the Chair of TLC

## UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

### Validation Summary Report BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012

#### **A NEW Course**

The Validation Panel recommends the approval of the following new course with effect from 2013/14

#### **BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

#### **B NEW MODULES**

There were no new modules

#### **C. CONDITIONS: Deadline: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012**

##### **Condition 1: Award Status**

Given the approval of the PPE at the outline and validation stages, the University needs urgently to decide whether the framework will be revised to accommodate the PPE in either the joint or single honours degree category, or whether PPE will be an exemption from the academic framework.

##### **Condition 2: Student Support Structures**

The Course Team reconsider support available to students as follows:

- i. by establishing an overview board with representation from all three contributing Departments, and including students, that meets on a regular basis, especially during the introductory years of the course
- ii. by reflecting on whether an Academic Adviser located in Philosophy in the third year is appropriate for students not continuing with that discipline in their final year.

##### **Condition 3: Revenue**

Confirmation to be provided by the Head of School, HAHP that the financial implications of hosting this course are fully appreciated, and that the academic and administrative support required and indicated in the documents presented to the panel will be provided, particularly in light of the fact that some PPE final year students may be taking no courses in the School.

##### **Condition 4: Timetabling**

Written confirmation to be provided by each Department that where no joint course currently exists (Philosophy and Economics), lectures would if necessary be given twice if timetabling could not satisfactorily accommodate this triple collaboration.

## **D RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Recommendation 1: Marketing Literature**

To review the current literature to include greater emphasis on the positive and distinctive aspects of the course; such as the solid grounding it provides in all three disciplines in the first two years, how it builds on the strong reputation of Sussex in the Social Sciences. Reference to Oxford University should be reconsidered, except where it is used specifically to highlight distinctive and attractive features of the Sussex PPE.

## **E CONCLUSION**

A final point not raised in the full meeting with the Course Team relates to the appointment of an External Examiner. Members were interested to read about the idea of a separate External Examiner for the course mooted in the documentation presented to the Panel. As there will be few students on the course, all of whom will appear before the Philosophy Exam Board, and there will be no modules taught/examined exclusively during the course, there is no compelling rationale for such an appointment. It could also be perceived as inviting an unfair degree of scrutiny when compared to that received by other joint courses.

The Panel recommends approval of the programme for entrants from 2013/14.

Approval is subject to meeting the conditions by 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012. The panel supported a request that to assist recruitment of the 2013 cohort, satisfaction of the conditions and recommendations should be sought from the Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Clare Mackie, rather than wait until the next meeting of that Committee.

Samantha Bromfield  
Secretary to the Panel

10<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
Revised 12<sup>th</sup> September