

12 January 2009

To: All Staff in Integrated Health
Copland Building

VIA EMAIL

Dear Colleague

AUDIT OF UG COMPLEMENTARY THERAPIES SCHEME

I am writing to update you on the Audit of the Undergraduate Complementary Therapies Scheme that I commissioned last year. The aim of the audit was to confirm the award designation of the courses and to explore the balance within courses between critical scholarly activity and the vocational aspects of courses designed to produce practitioners. The Audit was Chaired by Professor Alan Jago and carried out its review using a comprehensive evidence base, including the history of course development and by consultation with key staff. The panel made a number of recommendations to me as a result of their Audit. Many of these recommendations concern the University's processes for review and validation of courses and these will be passed to the Pro Vice Chancellor responsible for Quality to consider. The recommendations concerning the scheme were considered by myself and the SMT for Integrated Health and I wish to report to you here the actions we will put in place as a result of the review.

It is clear that given the controversial nature of some of the provision in the scheme, it is essential that we are delivering on our promise of a science based training as outlined in the programme documentation, that this training is evident in all modules and that the science content is transparent and understood by all students. The overarching aim of these actions then is to strengthen and make more explicit the 'scientific' nature of the Integrated Health undergraduate degrees.

In order to do this we will:

Strengthen learning outcomes particularly in discipline and clinical modules to reflect the science outcomes embedded in the courses.

Revise course specific regulations to explicitly identify that the core health sciences modules have to be passed to complete a degree of the BSc Scheme.

Strengthen the final year project offer to provide more scientific projects through working with Biosciences staff.

Ensure through working with staff that they make a clear link to the health sciences common core in all modules.



Strengthen the scientific/academic qualifications of staff through development of existing staff and appointments where they become available.

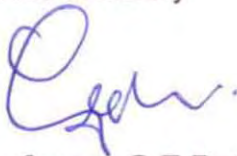
Strengthen scholarly activity across the area especially of staff who have a practitioner profile by encouraging dissemination and publishing of evidence-based studies.

Review degrees and identify therapies that would be delivered more appropriately as foundation degrees (rather than full degree).

Underpin development of high quality MSc programmes in selected areas of strength with research active staff.

These actions will be pursued through inclusion either in the Annual Monitoring procedures or within the five year strategic planning exercise that the School is presently undertaking. I am certain that this work will place Complementary therapies courses in an extremely strong position to meet the external challenges of the future.

Yours sincerely



Professor G E Petts
Vice-Chancellor