



Notes of Cass Executive Group meeting held on 14 June 2010

1. AACSB action plan

The School is required to submit a mid-term report, due in 2012, on how it has addressed the issues identified as requiring attention in the March 2010 accreditation report. The Executive Group approved an action plan relating to two key areas: maintaining academic and professional qualifications of teaching staff; and assurance of programme (as opposed to module) learning outcomes. It also agreed a number of actions that will feed into our continuous improvement plan in the areas of strategic alignment, internationalisation, student recruitment and undergraduate services.

2. EQUIS re-accreditation 2010

The Peer Review Panel, which will be conducting our second EQUIS re-accreditation in November/December 2010, will be chaired by the Dean of the University of Sydney Faculty of Economics and Business and will include Deans from Gothenburg and Koç University Business Schools as well as an independent consultant from Holland with links to ABN/AMRO. Cass staff have been commissioned to draft the different sections of the report and base room documentation is being assembled. The BSc Actuarial Science has been chosen by EQUIS for an in-depth audit. A new feature of the process is the student evaluation – two PG students have volunteered to write this and we are still looking for a 2nd year UG student.

3. Dean's items

Staff meeting. The recent staff meeting was the first to have been run by the Communications team. The new interactive format and more informative content have been generally well received. The Dean made a point of recognising the importance of the Undergraduate School to the strength of the Cass brand.

City University update. The University is undertaking two further exercises aimed at cutting costs and achieving greater efficiency. On the one hand, schools and central service departments are being asked to prepare a zero-based costing of all activities; and, on the other, the schools are being asked to find ways of increasing their contribution to the University.

Web project. The University Web project has overspent and is not running to time.

4. Non-executive director programme for charities

The Executive Group approved a proposal from two of our visiting professors, Douglas Board and Stuart Etherington of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, to partner for an innovative trial scheme to place three top charity chief executives on the boards of three major companies. If we are able to convert initial expressions of interest into a commitment from three boards, then CassExec will take responsibility for mentoring and supporting the charity executives over the three years. In addition, an ESRC CASE studentship will be sought in order to provide a research resource for the Corporate Governance Centre to evaluate the scheme. There are no costs involved to Cass beyond initial staff time to develop the proposal.

5. New appraisal scheme

The current Cass appraisal scheme sits outside that used by the University at present. Feedback on our scheme over the past two years has suggested that it is too cumbersome for staff to complete effectively. Simultaneously, the University has reviewed and substantially changed its own scheme, which is now in line with the Cass feedback. The key changes are that only objectives will formally be rated; competencies can be considered as part of the overall assessment; the ratings will be on a scale of 1-3 (objectives not met, met exceeding expectations); for academic staff only the RATE criteria will be used. The use of multi-way feedback is recommended but not compulsory for anyone other than senior management. The Executive Group approved the use of the City University competency framework and associated paperwork.

5. Student Recruitment

BSc: The overall number of firm offer holders is comparable to this time last year, with the new Accounting and Finance degree balancing the drop in applications for BIF and IFRM.

MSc: The Programme expects to do as well or better than in the current year. The four Finance programmes and the Management programme were already closed to new applicants in April. The Real Estate Investment programme is recruiting in spite of a fee increase. Next year applicants will be required to have achieved the GMAT, which should reduce the volume and improve the quality of applications. The UK Government's insistence that students need to have registered before visas are issued will reduce last-minute switching. However, problems with the University's on-line registration system are preventing our students who are ready to make payment from registering.

MBA: The careers-based assessment of candidates aimed at ensuring that students have the potential to progress in their chosen careers translates into fewer offers and the recruitment team will need to cast its net more widely and look at new recruitment markets in order to balance its more stringent selection criteria. With regard to Dubai, some more recruitment events are planned and two scholarships are on offer to excellent candidates. The team is considering a three-stage follow-up and conversion system.

CassExec: The prospects are looking better than for some time but it is still too soon to call.

6. British University in Dubai

The association between Cass and the British University in Dubai whereby Cass provides academic quality support to BUID's Finance and Banking MSc will be terminated after the current extension expires on 31 July 2010.

7. World Alumni Forum

Cass's first ever World Alumni Forum will be held in London on 16 July with panels, seminars and master classes throughout the day and a dinner-dance at the Museum of London. In the evening All staff are invited to attend and, in particular, to encourage their former students to come along.