

BOARD MEETING

Date of Meeting	21 December 2016
Paper Title	Credits Projection 2016/17 and Final Audited Credits 2015/16
Agenda Item	16.148
Paper Number	16.148A
Responsible Officer	B Hughes; Vice Principal Curriculum and External Relations
Status	Disclosable
Action	For Noting

1. Report Purpose

This paper provides members with the final audited outturn of our credit activity for session 2015/16 and an update of our current projections in respect of our progress against target credits for the academic year 2016/17.

2. Recommendations

The Board is asked to note this paper.

3. Background

Session 2015/16

On 8 November 2016, the college's internal auditors Henderson Loggie, issued their final audit report on the 2015/16 Student Activity Data (Credit Audit). The full report was presented to the Audit committee at its meeting on 7 December 2016.

This report shows that

- the student data returns have been compiled in accordance with all relevant guidance;
- adequate procedures are in place to ensure the accurate collection and recording of the data; and
- on the basis of our testing we can provide reasonable assurance that the FES return contains no material mis-statement.

The FES return is the vehicle through which the college reports all student related activity to the Scottish Funding Council.

Additionally, the report identified that the college's final claim of funded activity for 2015/16 was 128,872 credits against a target of 128,044 (including ESF activity). This represents delivery of 0.65% above target.

Session 2016/17

As previously reported to members, the college has an overall target for 2016/17 of **127,091** credits, comprising 121,401 of Core activity and a further 5,690 of European Social Fund [ESF] activity.

The Board has been updated on our progress towards achieving these targets at the meeting of the full Board on 26 October 2016 and the Learning & Teaching committee meeting of 9 November 2016.

The attachment illustrates the current position as at 9 December 2016 and shows;
Current credits estimate: 117,441 [121,118 at 9 November] and
Credits to start: 10,033 [9,887 at 9 November]

The drop in estimated credits across the period of time from the start of term is not unusual and has been noted at both meetings mentioned above.

As a result of analysis of our position in mid-November the decision was taken to offer our previously planned full range of January start programmes. When the Credit estimate and Credits to start figures are added together, the total of 127,474 credits is very close to our SFC target of 127,091 (0.3% above target). At our most recent Senior Management Team meeting therefore we agreed to look at providing an additional two or three courses in January where applications are very strong.

4. Risk Analysis

The process of ensuring that we meet our credit target annually is based on experience of previous years and systematic monitoring of our figures. Student drop out, resulting in lost activity, cannot be predicted with absolute certainty therefore is always a risk. A close working relationship between the teaching faculties and other student support services helps to minimise this risk. Additionally, failure to achieve our agreed target will negatively impact on the GCRB's view of our performance and ability to contribute to regional targets.

5. Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications relating to this paper.

6. Financial Implications

Failure to achieve our annual credit target has financial implications in the form of clawback of funding by SFC / GCRB. Actions to minimise this risk are identified in (4) above and by setting a higher internal college target than is required by SFC/GCRB.

7. Regional Outcome Agreement Implications

Our credit target is agreed at the level of the ROA and therefore our contribution to meeting the Glasgow Region figure is vital to the region's ability to meet its required outputs.

8. Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out (Y/N/NA)

N/A