



**REPORT OF THE RECOGNITION VISIT BY THE GCC PANEL TO THE
WELSH INSTITUTE OF CHIROPRACTIC (UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH
WALES)**

23 and 24 APRIL 2013

Panel

Barry Mitchell (Lay member of the GCC Education Committee) – Panel Chair

Lindsay Mitchell (GCC Education Officer)

Gay Swait (Chiropractic member of the GCC Education Committee)

Carl Stychin (Lay member of the GCC Education Committee)

Cliff Hancock (Quality Assurance in HE adviser to the GCC – Secretary)

Observers

Penny Bance (GCC Director of Education, Standards and Registration)

Phil Bunnell (Lay member of the GCC Education Committee)

Introduction

The General Chiropractic Council (GCC) had received a submission from the Welsh Institute of Chiropractic (WIOC), a division of the University of South Wales, for recognition of a programme leading to a registerable qualification. The programme was formulated as an integrated, undergraduate Masters (M. Chiro.) consisting of four years of full-time study.

After receipt of documentation setting out how the programme would be delivered the GCC Education Committee assembled a panel for a visit and asked WIOC to provide supplementary information prior to the recognition visit. On the basis of all of the information provided the formal recognition visit took place on 23 and 24 April 2013.

The panel met with a wide range of staff, students and patients from WIOC and the wider University of South Wales. There was full and open interaction between the panel and all groups that it met including staff (at all levels and employment status – full time, part time, hourly paid), students from all years of the current programme, patients from the student clinic and senior staff from the Faculty that houses Chiropractic and from the University's senior management. These high quality interactions allowed the panel to have a real insight into the way that the programme operates and how all aspects of the Chiropractic programme are co-ordinated and delivered. This quality was

manifested in the relatively high number of commendations made by the panel (see below).

On the basis of its examination of the documentation and the exploration of detail in a range of meetings held during the visit, the Panel recommends to the GCC Education Committee that the WIOC integrated undergraduate Masters (M. Chiro.) programme be recognised by the GCC. This proposed recognition is subject to two conditions – set out below. The panel also made several commendations and recommendations to WIOC. The details of how the GCC criteria for recognition were met or were made subject to a condition of recognition are set out in the Annex to this report.

Conclusion

At the end of the visit the Chair thanked all concerned at WIOC and the University of South Wales for their hospitality, the huge amount of work they had put into the development of the programme and its documentation and their patience and flexibility during the visit.

The panel recommends to the Education Committee recognition of the proposed WIOC integrated undergraduate Masters (M. Chiro.) programme for a period of five years starting with the 2013 intake to the programme (ie for entrants to the programme from September 2013 – September 2017 and for cohorts graduating from the programme between June 2017 – December 2021) and subject to two conditions. The **conditions** are:

1. That WIOC develops a policy and action plan for involving patients and carers in the:
 - a. learning and teaching of students (criterion 13c)
 - b. assessment of students (criterion 14c)
 - c. development of the programme (criterion 23).

The action plan should include an element of staff development and, to improve clinical relevance, build on the practice in other health and social care disciplines. The Education Committee will monitor progress with the policy and action plan over the next five years through its annual monitoring processes.

2. That WIOC submits an updated and definitive set of course documentation once this has passed successfully through the University's Quality Assurance procedures (criterion 11).

The panel made the following **commendations**:

1. The panel was impressed with the effective integration of all staff in developing the programme irrespective of their employment status (full time, part time or hourly paid).
2. The panel congratulated WIOC on the professionalism of their students and how this enhances patient treatment.
3. The panel was pleased to see how an evidence-based learning approach has been embedded through the programme.

4. The panel was impressed with the teaching and learning, and the supervision of students in the patient clinic; and also its management, its administration and the delivery of care to patients.
5. The panel was encouraged by the effective development of a peer-to-peer approach in learning and teaching.
6. The panel was encouraged by the support that WIOC receives from the wider University. This was particularly the case for the Faculty in which it resides where the high esteem that the division of Chiropractic enjoyed was very impressive.

The panel made the following **recommendations**:

1. the WIOC should clarify in its documentation how students' independent learning evolves over the period of the programme. It was clear from the meetings that this evolution occurs in a way to be expected but this is not clearly explained in the course documentation.
2. the WIOC should continue to build on the good multi-disciplinary learning that is already happening and the use that it is making of other healthcare providers so that student learning can be enhanced
3. the WIOC should clarify the purpose of student research in the programme and develop guidelines for a consistent approach in this area across the whole student cohort.