Curriculum Enhancement Project
The Academic Year: your say

DSE Forum 31 October 2012
• Drivers for reviewing academic year
• Summary of feedback themes: staff & students
• Project Board feedback
• Your response to the proposed changes
CEP Academic Year: Drivers for review

- Is what we’re offering good enough to be charging a £9k fee?
- Course design at programme rather than module level to minimise fragmented learning and ‘pocketed’ knowledge
- Are we over assessing?
- Disruption of continuous teaching and learning period
- Freedom and flexibility for programme teams to discuss programme learning outcomes and use of assessment to build skills and reinforce learning
• Semester 1, including 8 day university-organised exam period, to end before Christmas

• Feedback week at start of semester 2

• Semester 2 - continuous 11 week teaching period with Easter as bank holiday

• 2 week break + 2 week flexible period

• 3 week university-organised exam period

• 2 weeks extension studies taking us to the end of the academic year

• If agreed, earliest implementation 2015/16
Staff

- General support for concept of 2 contiguous semesters and fixing Easter but need to ensure family/research friendly
- Insufficient revision time if more compressed S1 exam schedule
- Need to be aware of the impacts on field trips and industry study if change Easter break
- Consider impact on international student recruitment
- Loss of teaching time when Easter falls within 11 week period in semester 2
Students

• Semester 1 – impact on performance due to lack of revision time

• Move towards long thin modules – consolidation of several ideas at once too overwhelming

• Exams before Christmas a potential disadvantage for disabled students

• Reading week becomes more important in the proposed model

• Positive about extension studies
Solid academic case fundamental

Assurance that recommended model responds to feedback and in cases where it does not, a clear pedagogic rationale for this

Paper to 12 December Project Board outlining:

- pedagogic rationale
- clear explanation of proposed model
- SWOT analysis based on staff & student feedback
- risks and mitigating actions
- financial analysis
- timeline for implementation

Decision on whether to recommend change at the 12 December meeting
Your feedback