

**Meeting of the Senatus Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC)
Online meeting via Teams
Friday 23 June, 10:30-12pm**

AGENDA

1.	Welcome and Apologies	
2.	Update on concessions related to industrial action – Verbal update To note	
For approval		
3.	Membership of Student Appeal Committee and Fitness to Practice Appeals Committee for 2023/24 Academic Year For approval	APRC 22/23 11A
4.	Proposed amendments to temporary variations relating to the award of credit on aggregate For approval	APRC 22/23 11B
5.	Any Other Business	

Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee

23 June 2023

Membership of Student Appeal Committee and Fitness to Practice Appeals Committee for 2023/24 Academic Year

Description of paper

1. This paper confirms the membership lists for the Student Appeal Committee and Fitness to Practice Appeals Committee for 2023/24 academic year.

Action requested / recommendation

2. The Committee is invited to approve the membership set out below. There is one change to the membership with one member being removed since previous approval on 23 January 2023.

Background and context

3. Under the University's Student Appeals Regulations, the Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee is responsible for approving the membership of the Student Appeals Committee and the Fitness to Practice Appeals Committee.
4. As approvals for additional members to the Committee were given in January 2023, there are no current additions to the membership below.
5. One member of staff is being removed from the list due to a job change, they have been marked below with a strikethrough.
6. The Committee is asked to confirm the membership for the 2023/24 academic year for the Student Appeal Committee and Fitness to Practice Appeals Committee.

Discussion

7. It has been identified, with the increase in appeal case numbers in the previous year, particularly for Postgraduate Taught cases that some additional staff may be required for the Postgraduate Student Appeal Committee. This is to improve efficiency of case turnaround times and to ensure cases are shared evenly amongst the Appeal Committee. Further nominees for the subcommittee will be sought from Schools in the coming months and any additions or changes will be presented to the Committee in due course.

Student Appeal Committee Membership Academic Year 2022/23**Undergraduate Student Appeal Committee****College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**

Professor Mary Brennan	Business School
Dr Tara Morrison	Business School
Dr Alison Jack	Divinity
Professor Tonks Fawcett	Health in Social Science
Dr Jonny Murray	Edinburgh College of Art
Professor Simon Riley	Edinburgh Futures Institute
Dr Robert Lane	Edinburgh School of Law
Dr Sandra Bingham	History, Classics and Archaeology
Professor Alexis Grohmann	Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Chris Perkins	Literatures, Languages and Cultures
Dr Steve Loughnan	Philosophy, Psychology and Language
Sciences	
Dr Paul Norris	Social and Political Science
Dr Andrea Birdsall	Social and Political Sciences

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Dr Fanney Kristmundsdottir	Biomedical Sciences
Dr Deborah Shaw	Biomedical Sciences
Professor Simon Riley	Clinical Sciences
Dr Alison Scott	School of Medicine
Professor Anna Meredith	R(D)SVS

College of Science and Engineering

Dr Chris Mowat (Vice-Convener)	Chemistry
Professor Heather McQueen	Biological Sciences
Dr Matt Bell	Biological Sciences
Mr Stephen Warrington	Engineering
Dr Simon Smith	Engineering
Professor Markus Mueller	Engineering
Dr Jennifer Skilling (Convener)	Engineering
Dr Caroline Nichol	GeoSciences
Dr Max Ruffert	Mathematics

Postgraduate Student Appeal Committee**College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences**

Dr Raluca Bunduchi	Business School
Dr Colin Chandler	Health in Social Science
Dr Emily Taylor	Health in Social Science
Professor Andrew Lang	Law
Professor Simon Kirby	Philosophy, Psychology and Language
Sciences	
Professor Mitsuhiro Ota	Philosophy, Psychology and Language
Sciences	

Dr Angus Bancroft

Social and Political Science

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Dr Kim Picozzi (Vice-Convener)

Biomedical Sciences

Professor Ruth Andrew

Clinical Sciences

Professor Cathy Abbott (Convener)

Molecular, Genetic and Population Health Sciences

College of Science and Engineering

Professor Andrew Hudson

Biological Sciences

Dr Martin Wear

Biological Sciences

Dr Alasdair Ivens

Biological Sciences

Dr Annamaria Lilienkampf

Chemistry

Dr Prashant Valluri

Engineering

Professor Markus Mueller

Engineering

Professor Henry Thompson

Informatics

Dr Julian Hall

Mathematics

Student Fitness to Practise Appeal Committee

College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences

Professor Tonks Fawcett (Health in Social Science)

Dr Helen Griffiths (Health in Social Science)

Dr Sam Fawcner (Moray House School of Education and Sport)

Professor Kay Tisdall (Moray House School of Education and Sport)

Prof John Devaney (Social and Political Sciences)

Dr Mary Mitchell (Social and Political Sciences)

College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine

Professor Stephen Wigmore (Deanery of Clinical Sciences)

Dr Jen Foley (Deanery of Clinical Sciences)

Professor David Argyle (R(D)SVS)

Professor Bruce McGorum (R(D)SVS)

Dr Alex Corbishley (R(D)SVS)

Professor Anna Meredith R(D)SVS

Resource implications

8. None currently.

Risk management

9. No additional risk currently.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

10. No direct implications.

Equality & diversity

11. No current implications for equality and diversity.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

12. Academic Services publish the Appeal Committee memberships on the Academic Services website.

Author

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*Appeals Manager – Academic Policy
Officer*

June 2023

Presenter

Freedom of Information

Open

Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee**23 June 2023****Proposed amendments to temporary variations relating to the award of credit on aggregate****Description of paper**

1. This paper asks APRC to consider requests for two amendments to previously agreed variations to the Taught Assessment Regulations, in order to extend the application of these variations to students in a broader range of circumstances. The first request relates to the award of credit on aggregate for pre-Honours students with Special Circumstances. The second relates to the approach to calculating eligibility for the award of credit on aggregate for students exiting with a postgraduate diploma or certificate.

Action requested / recommendation

2. APRC are asked to discuss and approve, if appropriate, the proposals set out in sections 8 and 11 of the paper.

Background and context

3. In March 2023, the Academic Contingency Group (ACG) considered that nature and extent of disruption resulting from strike action to be at a level where some degree of mitigation was necessary. The ACG made a recommendation to APRC to activate Taught Assessment Regulation 70 and recommended two temporary variations to regulations. At its 23 March meeting, APRC confirmed that it supported ACG's recommendations, and agreed to take a staged approach to considering the need for any further temporary variations to academic policies and regulations. At its 2 May Meeting, APRC confirmed it was content to activate Taught Assessment Regulations 70 and 71. ACG notified APRC that it would continue to monitor the impact of the industrial action and, should action escalate and there be a compelling case for a broader range of temporary variations, ACG would return to APRC with a recommendation that APRC to consider a broader range of temporary variations to regulations. ACG have agreed that the current impact of the action requires a further temporary variation to existing regulation.

Discussion*Requested amendment to variation to TAR 51 – Undergraduate progression: pre-honours and into honours*

4. At its 2 May meeting, APRC approved a variation to TAR 51 which permitted the award of up to 40 credits on aggregate for students in pre-Honours years, where students had achieved an average of 40% across a minimum of 80 credits. However, at that time, APRC made the following stipulation about the award of credit on aggregate at pre-Honours level:

Credit on aggregate will only be awarded for courses where both the following criteria are met:

- i. The course result is missing or unratified due to industrial action or failed

AND flagged as adversely affected by industrial action.

ii. The Board of Examiners has established that a pass grade cannot be awarded (see 6.4.5 – b).

5. The wording as agreed does not permit the award of credit on aggregate for courses where students have had Special Circumstances accepted. ACG have suggested that this omission has the potential to lead to unreasonably inconsistent treatment of students with the same profile of results, where one has Special Circumstances and another has results missing due to the industrial action. An example is provided below.
6. **Student A** has results for 40 credits missing due to the industrial action. The Board of Examiners awards 40 credits on aggregate. The student is permitted to progress.

Student A	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3	Course 4	Course 5	Course 6
Weighting (%)	20	20	20	20	20	20
Mark	54	62	58	42	<i>missing</i> CA	<i>missing</i> CA

The missing credits for Course 5 and Course 6 are subsequently resolved as fails which are uploaded to the student's record (see below). There is no suggestion that Student A's performance in assessment was otherwise affected by the industrial action or adverse personal circumstances. However, as per 6.5.4 (G) in the industrial action guidance, additional new information cannot result in a less favourable progression decision so the award of credit on aggregate stands and their progression decision remains.

Student A	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3	Course 4	Course 5	Course 6
Weighting (%)	20	20	20	20	20	20
Mark	54	62	58	42	37 CA	32 CA

Student B has failed Course 5 and Course 6, against which they have upheld Special Circumstances. They are awarded null sits and are asked to submit further assessment in the resit diet.

Student B	Course 1	Course 2	Course 3	Course 4	Course 5	Course 6
Weighting (%)	20	20	20	20	20	20
Mark	54	62	58	42	37 NS	32 NS

7. In the above example, Student B has had Special Circumstances accepted in relation to their two failed courses, but will be required to sit further assessment,

unlike Student A, who has no Special Circumstances. Were Students A and B studying in their Honours years, the same discrepancy would not occur, since credit on aggregate can be awarded to students with Special Circumstances at Honours level. It could be argued that it is reasonable to treat Students A and B differently on the basis that Student A's status as regards the requirement to resit is unknown, while it is known that Student B requires to resit. Student B therefore has the opportunity to resit in the resit diet, while Student A does not. It could also be argued that the requirement to sit further assessment and demonstrate that they can meet relevant learning outcomes is not necessarily detrimental to Student B, relative to Student A's position.

8. **ACG has asked APRC to consider this issue and determine whether it would be appropriate to approve an extension of the existing variation to TAR 51 to allow the award of credit on aggregate at pre-Honours level in cases where students have Special Circumstances, as in the example of Student B, above.** As previously, this would be for up to 40 credits, and only for optional courses, or core courses where the relevant Board of Examiners was satisfied that the student did not need to sit further assessment. APRC could also consider whether any such extension to the variation should apply only to courses with Special Circumstances which were completed in Semester 2, or also courses from Semester 1, bearing in mind that (in the example above) Student A's can only be from Semester 2.
9. The proposal would mitigate the risk of students with Special Circumstances being treated differently relative to other students, and the potential that this could be perceived as unfair.

Requested variation to TAR 57 – Postgraduate degree, diploma and certificate award

10. At its 2 May meeting, APRC approved a variation to TAR 56 which amended the provisions for the award of credit on aggregate on PGT Master's programmes. The variation allowed for the award of credit on aggregate for courses with results missing due to the industrial action, based on students having secured an average of 40% across those courses which had numerical marks available (i.e. excluding the results for those courses which had missing results). At this time, however, APRC was not asked to consider applying this variation to students exiting with a PG Diploma or Certificate, which is covered by TAR 57. ACG has requested that the same variation be applied to TAR 57, in order to prevent students exiting with a PG Diploma or Certificate from being unfairly disadvantaged relative to those continuing on the Master's programme.
11. With regard to the award of the PG Certificate and Diploma, TAR 57 states the below. Text which is proposed to be deleted is indicated with strikethrough, while additional text is added in red. **APRC is requested to approve the proposed temporary variations to the regulations.**

In order to be awarded the certificate students must:

- (a) pass at least 40 credits with a mark of at least 40%; and

- (b) attain an average of at least 40% **in the available credits which return a numerical grade** ~~for the 60 credits of study examined for the certificate~~; and
- (c) satisfy any other specific requirements for the named certificate that are clearly stated in respective programme handbooks.

In order to be awarded the diploma students must:

- (a) pass at least 80 credits with a mark of at least 40%; and
- (b) attain an average of at least 40% **in the available credits which return a numerical grade** ~~for the 120 credits of study examined for the diploma~~; and
- (c) satisfy any other specific requirements for the named diploma that are clearly stated in respective programme handbooks.

When all the marks for the taught components of the programme or diploma are available, if the student has achieved a mark of at least 40% in at least 80 credits and has an overall average of 40% or more ~~over the full 120 credits~~ **in the available credits which return a numerical grade**, then they will be awarded credits on aggregate for the failed courses, up to a maximum of 40 credits. For a certificate, a maximum of 20 credits may be awarded on aggregate.

12. The proposed variations would bring the requirements for students exiting with a PG Diploma or Certificate into line with those applying to students continuing on a Master's programme. They therefore mitigate any risk of perceived unfair treatment as regards these students. Since the variations are in line with others applying both to PGT and UG students, they do not introduce any new risks.

Resource implications

13. Were the variations approved, they would require amendment to existing guidance regarding industrial action. This can be managed within existing resources by Academic Services. The approval of new variations requires additional effort from staff in Schools involved in supporting Boards of Examiners to understand and apply the variations. However, this is expected to be minimal in the case of the variations proposed, and is offset by the removal of uncertainty regarding the issues covered by the variations.

Risk management

14. The paper covers the risks of potentially inconsistent treatment of students with similar academic performance, which may give rise to perceptions of unfairness.

Responding to the Climate Emergency & Sustainable Development Goals

15. Not applicable

Equality & diversity

16. The proposal regarding TAR 51 relates to the treatment of students with Special Circumstances. A high proportion of Special Circumstances requests are based on the adverse impact of mental ill health or other medical issues. The University therefore has an obligation to ensure that students in these circumstances do not experience unreasonably detrimental treatment relative to other students.

Communication, implementation and evaluation of the impact of any action agreed

17. Academic Services will communicate to Schools and Colleges regarding any temporary variations to normal policies and regulations.

Author

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CAHSS
15 June 2023*

Presenter

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Freedom of Information Open