

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

**Confirmed minute**

<p><b>Present:</b> Dr Aidan Brown Dr Adam Bunni Professor Jamie Davies Dr Murray Earle Professor Patrick Hadoke (Vice-Convenor) Clair Halliday Isabel Lavers Professor Antony Maciocia Sarah McAllister Katy McPhail Dr Paul Norris (Convenor) Rachael Quirk Dr Uzma Tufail-Hanif Stephen Warrington Kirsty Woomble</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Olivia Hayes (Minutes)</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Philippa Burrell Professor Jeremy Crang Carl Harper Alexandra Laidlaw Dr Donna Murray</p> <p>Callum Paterson Dr Deborah Shaw Professor Tim Stratford</p>	<p>Elected member of Senate Head of Academic Policy and Regulation Dean of Taught Education (CMVM) Elected member of Senate Director of Postgraduate Research and Early Career Research Experience (CMVM) The Advice Place, Deputy Manager Academic Administration Manager (CMVM) – substitute member Dean of Postgraduate Research (CSE) Head of Student Support Operations, Registry Services Deputy Head of Academic Affairs (CSE) – substitute members Dean of Quality Assurance and Curriculum Approval (CAHSS) Head of Taught Student Administration &amp; Support (CAHSS) Elected member of Senate Dean of Student Experience (CSE) Head of PGR Student Office (CAHSS)</p> <p>Academic Policy Officer, Academic Services</p> <p>Head of Academic Administration (CMVM) Dean of Students (CAHSS) Vice President Education, Students' Association Head of Academic Affairs (CSE) Head of Taught Student Development, Institute for Academic Development Academic Engagement Coordinator (Co-opted member) Dean of Students (CMVM) Dean of Learning and Teaching (CSE)</p>
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1.	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies</b> The Convener opened the meeting and welcomed Katy McPhail and Isabel Lavers as substitute members attending the meeting on behalf of absent members.</p> <p><b>Convener's communications:</b> The Convener provided an update on an outstanding query on language competency for non-mandatory year abroad students. The Convener confirmed that the language competency for optional study abroad students is determined by SWAY via other tests and these tests have taken place as normal. The Convener confirmed that work is underway to agree an approach to handling academic failure whilst on study abroad.</p>
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2.	<p><b>Update on concessions related to industrial action – Verbal update</b> To note</p> <p>The Convener extended his thanks to the Deputy Convener for handling majority of the concessions relating to industrial action as these have come from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.</p> <p>The Deputy Convener outlined the decision taken on two concessions relating to industrial action which the Committee had been consulted on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A concession was received from the School of Social and Political Sciences, this was approved.</li> <li>• A concession was received from the Moray House School of Education and Sport. This was approved.</li> </ul> <p>The Committee discussed a cohort concession received from the Business School and which the Committee has been consulted on. Following a discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the concession and no objections were raised. The School would be asked to reflect on the suitability of the terminology surrounding the capstone project which suggests that this is a course required to meet the programme learning outcomes if passing this course is not required for the award.</p> <p>The Committee discussed an individual student concession received from the Business School and which the Committee has been consulted on. Following discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the concession and no objections were raised.</p>
<b>For approval</b>	
3.	<p><b>Membership of Student Appeal Committee and Fitness to Practice Appeals Committee for 2023/24 Academic Year - APRC 22/23 11A</b> For approval</p> <p>The Committee approve the revised membership of the Student Appeals and Fitness to Practice Committee for 2023/24 subject to one clarification. The Committee asked for clarification on how Committees are formed for students from the same colleague as a member of the Appeals or Fitness to Practice Committee.</p> <p>The title for two members has changed since drafting, this has been passed to the paper author to update.</p> <p>A concern was raised regarding the potential conflict of interest of one member on the Committee.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> The Head of Academic Policy and Regulation agreed to confirm how membership of Committees is formed where a student is from the same College as a member.</p>
4.	<p><b>Proposed amendments to temporary variations relating to the award of credit on aggregate - APRC 22/23 11B</b> For approval</p> <p>Dr Adam Bunni, Head of Academic Policy and Regulation introduced the item. The paper asks the Committee 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</p>

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.

The following points were raised in discussion:

- There is a distinction between students whose courses are affected by Special Circumstances and affected by industrial action. The proposal would represent a change in the handling of special circumstances.
- Students affected by special circumstances are able to engage with normal university processes, including the resit diet.
- Students whose results are missing due to industrial action are unable to engage with normal university processes. The temporary variations should only apply to courses affected by industrial action.
- Many Course Board of Examiners will have already met and would be required to reconvene if a change in approach was approved.
- Students find it challenging to understand the difference between special circumstances outcomes and industrial action mitigations. Student communications should ensure the difference between special circumstances and industrial action mitigation is clear.

The Committee did not approve the amendment to the temporary variation of Taught Assessment Regulation 51. A member, who submitted comments ahead of the meeting, supported the approval of the amendment to the temporary variation of Taught Assessment Regulation 51.

The Committee may be required to consider temporary variations to address the impact of industrial action on the resit diet at a future meeting.

The Committee approved the amendment to the temporary variation of Taught Assessment Regulation 57 and no objections were raised.

## 5. **Any Other Business**

### **Update on the proposal to terminate supervision of a PhD**

This item is closed business

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

The Convener noted that he is seeking information on the powers that the Committee are using to consider temporary variations. He is seeking information on the impact of variations and what this will mean for the number and level of awards issued in comparison to a normal year. This information is unlikely to be available until after the period of disruption has concluded.

The Equality Impact Assessment for the Taught Assessment Regulations was prepared in 2016 and has not been updated since it was prepared.

The Committee are responsible for considering the EDI implications of its decisions, and paper authors are asked to reflect on this in drafting.

### **Update on Committee meetings:**

The 30 June meeting of APRC will take place, at this meeting the Committee will receive a new Exceptional Circumstances Policy for consideration.

There are a further three meetings scheduled throughout July. It is unlikely that all meetings will be required, however the placeholders will remain in place and be cancelled closer to the time if not required. The Convener reiterated that substitute members are welcome if members are unavailable to attend.