

Meeting of the Senatus Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC)**Online meeting via Teams****Friday 9 June, 11-12:30pm****Confirmed minute**

<p>Present: Dr Aidan Brown Dr Adam Bunni Professor Jamie Davies Dr Murray Earle Professor Patrick Hadoke (Vice-Convenor) Clair Halliday Dr Jenny Hoy Isabel Lavers Professor Antony Maciocia Sam Maccallum Sarah McAllister Katy McPhail Dr Donna Murray</p> <p>Dr Paul Norris (Convenor) Callum Paterson Rachael Quirk Dr Deborah Shaw Professor Tim Stratford Stephen Warrington</p> <p>In attendance: Olivia Hayes (Minutes)</p> <p>Apologies: Philippa Burrell Professor Jeremy Crang Alexandra Laidlaw Kirsty Woomble Dr Uzma Tufail-Hanif</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 CAHSS EDI lead – substitute member Academic Administration Manager (CMVM) – substitute member Dean of Postgraduate Research (CSE) Vice President Education, Students' Association Head of Student Support Operations, Registry Services Deputy Head of Academic Affairs (CSE) – substitute members Head of Taught Student Development, Institute for Academic Development Dean of Quality Assurance and Curriculum Approval (CAHSS) Academic Engagement Coordinator (Co-opted member) Head of Taught Student Administration & Support (CAHSS) Dean of Students (CMVM) Dean of Learning and Teaching (CSE) Dean of Student Experience (CSE)</p> <p>Academic Policy Officer, Academic Services</p> <p>Head of Academic Administration (CMVM) Dean of Students (CAHSS) Head of Academic Affairs (CSE) Head of PGR Student Office (CAHSS) Elected member of Senate</p>
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1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>The Convener opened the meeting and welcomed Dr Jenny Hoy, Katy McPhail and Isabel Lavers, substitute members attending the meeting on behalf of absent members.</p>
2.	<p>Update on concessions related to industrial action – Verbal update To note</p> <p>The 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"> • A concession was received from the School of Geosciences, this was approved and advice provided to the School on ensuring the robustness of marks and with an offer of support to aid in resolving the issue moving forward. • A concession was received from the School of Divinity, this was approved. <p>The Convener noted that a concession from the Colleges of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences was expected imminently and this would be handled in the agreed way.</p>
<p>To note and comment</p> <p>Report of comments received by email</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Academic Policy and Regulations Membership and Terms of Reference 2023/24 - APRC 22/23 9R</p> <p>To note</p> <p>The Committee noted the paper and no comments were raised.</p> <p>The current APRC composition would continue until Senate formally approve the membership for 2023/24. The majority of positions on the Committee are ex-officio.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Annual Report of the Senate Standing Committees - APRC 22/23 9S</p> <p>To note and comment</p> <p>The Committee noted the paper.</p> <p>There was limited detail provided on the priorities for the Senate Education Committee. It was requested that further detail be provided on this moving forward.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Annual Review of Effectiveness of Senate Standing Committees - APRC 22/23 9T</p> <p>To note and comment</p> <p>The Committee noted the paper.</p> <p>There is an expectation that EDI matters are considered in preparing a paper for APRC. The Committee are responsible for determining if the consideration of EDI is sufficient for items business brought forward and members can raise objection if they feel that greater consideration of EDI matters is required.</p>
<p>For approval</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Proposed Regulation, Policy and Procedure Changes related to Implementation of Student Support Model - APRC 22/23 10D</p> <p>For approval</p> <p>The Convener, Dr Paul Norris invited the Committee to approve this item and noted that paragraph 12 of the paper has been updated in light of comments raised at the 25 May meeting.</p> <p>The Committee approved the paper as presented and no were objections raised.</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p>Academic Year Dates – 2026/27 - APRC 22/23 10E For approval</p> <p>This item was introduced by Olivia Hayes, Academic Policy Officer, Academic Services. The paper outlines the revised provisional academic year dates 2026/27 for approval.</p> <p>The following points were raised in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee expressed its discomfort with reducing the revision period to two days from the usual five days. • Weekends should not be included in the revision period. • Curriculum Transformation (CT) is expected to be in place by the 2026/27 and it is unclear what the structure of examinations will look like under CT and the potential impact on the December 2026 diet. • The structure of the Academic Year suggests that Semester 1 has greater importance than Semester 2. The Academic Year structure was last reviewed in 2016 however may require further consideration as part of Curriculum Transformation. • The flexibility of the dates of the Edinburgh Festival and time required to derig following the festival concluding ahead of Welcome Week activities commencing should be considered. • The timing of the 2026/27 February Flexible Learning Week aligns with private school and English school holidays. This does not align with Scottish public school holidays and therefore disproportionately impacts on particular groups of staff. • The current start time of 1pm for examinations is arbitrary and the appropriateness of this start time should be considered. <p>The Committee did not approve the paper and agreed that the following be considered ahead of this returning to a future meeting of APRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Assessment and Feedback Working Group be asked to consider options for addressing the reduced revision period. • Modelling of the December exam diet based on two exam sittings per day and the number of days to deliver an exam diet with two sittings per day. • A commitment that no new material be delivered in Week 11 and the practical implications of implementing this for the 2026/27 academic year • In the event that fewer days are required to deliver the 2026 December diet, these are removed from the beginning of the diet • A series of concrete proposals be developed to extend the revision period. <p>The Committee requested that updates on this work be provided throughout the next academic year.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Election of APRC Convener and Vice-Convener for 2022/23 - Verbal discussion For approval</p> <p>The Convener, Dr Paul Norris outlined that the Committee are responsible for the election of the APRC Convener and Vice-Convener on an annual basis. The Convener has received two expressions of interest, Professor Patrick Hadoke for Convener and Professor Stephen Warrington for Deputy Convener.</p> <p>The Convener and invited any further nominations from the floor, no further nominations were received and no questions were raised for the nominees.</p> <p>The Committee approved Professor Patrick Hadoke as Convener and Professor Stephen Warrington as Deputy Convener and no objections were raised. They would take up their positions from 1 August 2023.</p>

	<p>The Committee extended its gratitude to outgoing Convener, Dr Paul Norris for his chairing and Convenorship of APRC in recent years.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>Temporary variation to Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations s.28 – Optional Study Abroad – ARPC 22/23 10F For approval</p> <p>Dr Adam Bunni, Head of Academic Policy and Regulation, Academic Services introduced the paper. The paper outlines a temporary variation to Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulation 28, which outlines the requirement for students to possess 240 SCQF credits before participating in a period of optional study abroad in Year 3.</p> <p>The following points were raised in discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University has a duty of care to ensure students that study abroad are equipped to study abroad. The student support provided to students whilst abroad is adequate to support any potential implications of missing course results due to the marking and assessment boycott returning as fail grades. • The calibre of students who study abroad is generally high and there is believed to be a low risk associated with approving the proposal. The application process is rigorous and students must have demonstrated a strong commitment to studying abroad, with arrangements, including those incurring financial costs, made some time ago. • There would be a substantial and disproportionate impact on students seeking to undertake an optional study abroad and who are unable to undertake this due to credits missing as a result of the marking and assessment boycott. Many students choose to study at Edinburgh for the opportunities afforded to them by the institution, including study abroad. There is a risk that these students will be penalised for missing credits being treated as fail grades in the absence of ratified marks. • A delay to reaching a decision on this item could have significant financial and visa implications for students studying abroad due to increased travel and visa costs. Some students studying at southern hemisphere institutions will be expected to be in their host country in time for teaching to begin in July. • Any student whose grades are missing and/or returned as fails whilst abroad must be provided with additional support by their School. Student Advisors would provide additional support to students to communicate any fail results and the implications of these and what these mean in the broader context of their programme and further study. <p>The Committee approved the proposal to permit a temporary variation to Undergraduate Degree Regulation 28 and to permit students to take an optional year abroad with a minimum of 180 credits and where the missing credits are the result of industrial action.</p> <p>The draft guidance was shared with the Committee for comment with a tight timeframe for responses. The updated guidance is to be circulated to Schools by the end of the day.</p> <p>Further work is required to establish the approach where students receive a fail grade whilst abroad. The Committee will receive an update on this in due course.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Any Other Business</p>

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	Thanks and best wishes were extended to Sam Maccallum, EUSA VP Education for their service on the Committee in 2022/23.
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