

Academic Policy & Regulations Committee

There will be a meeting of the Academic Policy & Regulations Committee at **10.00 am** on **Thursday 8 October 2009**, in The Beale Room (Committee Room 1, G32, Aston Webb).

Apologies for absence should be addressed to Paul Fantom, Academic and Student Administration, Academic Services (tel. 48471 email: p.a.fantom@bham.ac.uk).

Paul Fantom
Secretary

AGENDA

1. Proposed Terms of Reference and Membership

To consider:

- (a) The proposed terms of reference and membership of the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee for 2009/10. APRC.09.10.01
a
(Enclosed)

To note that:

- (b) The proposed terms of reference and membership of the Progress and Awards Board for 2009/10 and of the Research Progress and Awards Sub-Group (a Sub-Panel of the Progress and Awards Board) during 2009/10 will come forward to a future meeting.

2. Minutes

APRC.09.10.02
(Enclosed)

To approve:

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 May 2009.

3. Matters arising on the Minutes not addressed elsewhere on the agenda

- (a) Code of Practice on Student Attendance and Reasonable Diligence (Minute 09/18 refers)

To note that the terms of reference of the University's Progress and Awards Board will be amended to more accurately reflect the responsibilities of the Board, as set out in the Code of Practice.

4. The Provision of Awards leading to the Degree of Master of Philosophy

APRC.09.10.03
(Enclosed)

To consider:

A paper seeking approval for a proposal in response to external examiner comments on the University's MPhil provision.

Please note: The QAA has recently issued Circular 11/09, *Consultation on draft new master's degree characteristics reference point* (please see link: www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/masters), and Appendix 1 of this documentation is relevant to discussion of this item.

5. Proposed changes to the Code of Practice on the Conduct of Centrally Co-ordinated Formal Written Examinations APRC.09.10.04
(Enclosed)

To consider:

A paper seeking changes to the Code of Practice to remove ambiguity and ensure consistency of approach.

6. Proposal to reduce the minimum duration of the BNurs to three years to bring it into line with Programme length APRC.09.10.05
(Enclosed)

To consider:

A paper seeking amendment to Regulations to ensure the minimum duration of the BNurs degree is in accordance with practice.

7. Proposal to clarify an ambiguity concerning the Points-Based System in the Code of Practice on Student Attendance and Reasonable Diligence APRC.09.10.06
(Enclosed)

To consider:

A paper seeking changes to the Code of Practice to remove an ambiguity in the Code of Practice.

8. Chair's Action

To report:

That Chair's Action was taken between May and September 2009, in relation to:

(a) Approval of the following Amendments to Legislation:

- (i) To Regulations, in order to reduce the maximum duration of the BDS.
- (ii) To Regulations, in order to clarify the recruitment process of the Investigating Officer appointed for the purpose of investigating matters of student conduct.
- (iii) To Regulations, with respect to postgraduate research programmes, in order to make certain processes relating to postgraduate research programmes and students clearer.
- (iv) To Regulations, and to the Code of Practice on Centrally Coordinated Formal Written Examinations, relating to examination irregularities.
- (v) To Ordinances, with respect to the inclusion of the award of the degree of Master of Public Administration.

(b) Approval of the following Amendments to Codes of Practice:

- (i) The Code of Practice on Assessment and Award of Higher Doctorates.
- (ii) The Code of Practice on Plagiarism.
- (iii) The Code of Practice on Senate Review.

(c) Approval of the following Exemptions:

- (i) A request to amend Regulations in respect of the Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education.
- (ii) A request from the Birmingham Law School in relation to the use of Adjusted Regulations and 30 credit modules on the LLB for Graduates two year programme for 2008/10.

9. Date of Meetings for the Academic Year 2009/10

To note:

That meetings of APRC will be held in The Beale Room (Committee Room 1), G32, Aston Webb on:

- Thursday 4th February 2010 at 10.30 am
- Thursday 20th May 2010 at 2.30 pm