

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Academic Policy & Regulations Committee

06 October 2010

CONFIRMED MINUTES

- Members present: Professor J S Bale, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Teaching, Learning and Quality (in the Chair)
Professor K Dowden, College of Arts and Law
Mr Rob Hunter, Birmingham University Guild of Students
Professor A Jung, College of Engineering and Physical Sciences
Ms C L McCauley, Academic and Student Administration
Ms C M Pike, Legal Services
Professor N M Ross, College of Medical and Dental Sciences
Professor C Ryan, College of Social Sciences
- Apologies: Professor G W Humphreys, College of Life and Environmental Sciences
- In attendance: Ms Jo Lockett, Academic and Student Administration (In attendance for Minute 10/04)
Ms Nina Morris, Academic and Student Administration (Secretary)
- Papers The Minute Book contains copies of all written papers or reports referred to below. Agenda and papers are also available via <http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/legislation/APRC.shtml>.

10/33 **Welcome**

Noted:

The Chair welcomed all existing and new members to the first meeting of the Committee for the 2010/11 academic session.

He introduced and welcomed Mr Rob Hunter, the Birmingham University Guild of Students' Vice-President (Education and Access) for 2010/11.

He also introduced and welcomed Ms Nina Morris, Secretary to the Committee.

10/34 **Proposed Terms of Reference and Membership**

Resolved

That the Terms of Reference and Membership of the Committee during 2010/11 (APRC.10.10.01) be approved.

10/35 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2010 (APRC.10.10.02) be approved pending one minor typing amendment.

10/36 **Matters arising on the Minutes not addressed elsewhere on the agenda**

(a) Report on the consultation with ASA, External Relations and Legal Services regarding amendments on Research Masters Degrees (Minute 10/28 refers).

Considered:

An oral report from the Secretary on the result of consultations with External Relations, Legal Services and ASA as to the issues surrounding the implementation in 2012/13 of the proposed changes to the MPhil.

Resolved:

That the Curriculum Development Manager be asked to prepare a guidance document for the amendment of the current MPhil programmes.

10/37 **Revised Complaints Procedure (Minute 10/18 refers)**

Considered:

A revised paper seeking amendment to the Complaints Procedure, to clarify terminology, following discussion in APRC in May 2010 (APRC.10.10.03).

Resolved:

That the proposed changes be approved for 2011/12, pending a minor consultation between Jo Luckett, and Legal Services, regarding the precise wording of Clause 3.6, on mediation.

10/38 **Proposed amendments to the Regulations relating to the Degree of MD**

Considered:

A paper seeking amendment to Regulations 6.2.3 (a), relating to the maximum length of the write-up period, and to 7.4.8 (b), relating to transfer from Masters by Research to a Doctoral programme for implementation in 2011/12 (APRC. 10.10.04)

Resolved:

(a) That the following proposed amendments to the Regulations be approved (additions underlined, deletions struck through):

(i) Regulation 6.2.3 (a) to read:

The minimum and maximum periods of study permitted for programmes prescribed for research degrees of the University shall be:

Award	Minimum period	Maximum period
One-year MRes	1 year (full-time)	2 years (full-time)
One-year MPhil (Mode A)	1 year (full-time)	2 years (full-time)
One-year MPhil (Mode B)	1 year (full-time)	2 years (full-time)
MMus	1 year (full-time)	2 years (full-time)
Two-year MPhil	2 years (full-time)	3 years (full-time)
Professional Doctorate	3 years (full-time)	4 years (full-time)
PhD	3 years (full-time)	4 years (full-time)
PhD with Integrated Study	4 years (full-time)	5 years (full-time)
EngD	4 years (full-time)	5 years (full-time)
DDS	2 years (part-time)	6 years (part-time)
MD	2 years (part-time)	6 4 years (part-time)

- (ii) Regulation 7.4.8 (b) to read:

Transfer from Masters by Research to a PhD Doctoral programme

Transfer to a PhD Doctoral programme may be permitted:

- (i) *After the award of the Masters by Research degree.
In such cases Registered Students may apply for admission to a PhD Doctoral programme after being awarded the Masters by Research degree. If the proposed area of research for the PhD Doctoral degree is deemed by the Senate or a delegated authority to be sufficiently closely related to the research done by the Registered Student for the Masters by Research degree, then the period of study taken for the degree of Masters by Research will be deducted from the time required for the PhD Doctoral programme. In such cases, the Masters by Research degree must be returned to the University before the PhD Doctoral degree may be awarded;*
- (ii) *After successful completion of the Masters by Research programme but before the degree has been awarded.
Provided the Registered Student has passed any taught modules, the examiners, when recommending the award of the degree of Masters by Research, may also recommend that a Registered Student should have the option of proceeding to further work for the Doctoral degree of PhD. If the Registered Student opts to transfer to the PhD Doctoral programme, then the Masters by Research will not be awarded. The time limit for the PhD Doctoral programme will be calculated from the initial date of registration for the Masters by Research;*
- (iii) *or after a minimum of nine months' full-time study for the Masters by Research programme:
Transfer to the Doctoral degree of PhD may be permitted by the Senate or under delegated authority, provided that the Registered Student has passed any taught elements and produced a satisfactory report or detailed research proposal in accordance with the Principal Academic Unit or College's requirements. The time limits for the PhD Doctoral programme will be calculated from the initial date of registration for the Masters by Research*
- (iii) Regulation 7.4.8 (c) to read:

A Registered Student who has transferred to ~~the~~ PhD a Doctoral programme and

subsequently withdraws or fails to reach the required standard for the Award of the ~~PhD~~ Doctoral degree will be entitled to the Award of the degree of Masters by Research, provided that the Registered Student has satisfied the requirements for the Masters by Research degree.

- (b) That Professor Nick Ross would report to the next APRC on exact numbers of students currently registered on the MD.
- (c) That an exemption would be submitted for current students on part time MD to ensure that their maximum write-up period remains at 6 years and are therefore not disadvantaged by changes to the Regulations for 2011/12.

10/39 **PSIBS Exemption from Regulation 7.3.2 (a)**

Considered:

A paper requesting that the PhD with Integrated Study in Physical Science of Imaging in the Biomedical Sciences (PSIBS) be granted an exemption from Regulation 7.3.2(a), in order to allow a student to graduate (but not progress) with a MSc after having achieved a proportional number of credits at Level M.

Resolved:

- (a) That the exemption be granted
- (b) That the Secretary liaise with the School on the credit requirement for the dissertation element.

10/40 **Date of next meeting:**

Noted:

That the next meeting would be held on Thursday 3 February 2011 at 10.30 am in the Beale Room, G32, Aston Webb Building.