

University of Birmingham

Paper discussing amendments to Regulations relating to a registered student's attempt to retrieve failure for a module in a specific instance

Topic and Purpose of the Paper

1. APRC is asked to **consider**, amending Regulations relating to a registered student's attempt to retrieve failure for a module in a specific instance.

Consultation

2. The amendments were requested by Clare McCauley (ASA) in consultation with Vicky Phillips (BIRMS team).

Proposals

3. That Regulation 7.2.6 (i) is discussed
 - (i) *Following an attempt to retrieve failure (via reassessment, repetition or substitution) the mark used for calculating a Registered Student's weighted mean mark and progress or final degree classification shall be:*
 - (i) *The pass mark for that module if the Registered Student passes the module.*
 - (ii) *The higher of the two fail marks if the Registered Student fails the module.*

The Current Position

4. Currently, there are no Regulations that govern internal hurdles, as this is considered to be a matter for the individual school.
5. Where a student fails a module at re-sit due to failing an internal hurdle, the higher of their two fail marks are always used when calculating their degree calculation, in accordance with Regulation 7.2.6 (i) (ii) (see Appendix 1A).
6. Where a student fails an internal hurdle, but passes the module at re-sit, their mark is capped at the pass mark for the module when calculating their degree classification, in accordance with Regulation 7.2.6 (i) (i) (see Appendix 1A).
7. In this situation, the student's degree classification could be improved by the failure of the re-sit, because if they pass the module at the second attempt, the mark will be capped at the pass mark for the module. Moreover, a student who failed a module at re-sit could actually have a higher mark used when calculating their degree classification than a student who passed the module at re-sit.

Arguments to Support the Current Position

8. As there are no Regulations that govern internal hurdles, currently this situation operates wholly within the letter of the Regulations.
9. The BIRMS system also adheres to this procedure.

An Alternative Proposal:

10. An amendment to Regulation 7.2.6 (i) as follows

(iii) In the event that there is an internal hurdle, and a student fails both attempts at the internal hurdle, but has an overall mark of above the pass mark for the module, the pass for that module will be used.

Arguments to Support Alternative Proposal

11. This amendment would ensure that no student who fails an internal hurdle after the re-sit can be given a mark higher than a student who passes an internal hurdle after the re-sit (see Appendix 1 (b)).

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Appendix 1

In the below scenarios the module is assessed by a coursework component, and an exam component, each with a 50% weighting. The internal hurdle for the module is the exam component with a mark of at least 40. The overall pass mark for the module is 40% as per UG Regulations

a) The current position

	Assessment result	Exam result	Overall module mark	Result	Examination re-sit result	Overall re-sit result	Final mark included in degree classification	Transcript shows
Student A	50%	36%	43%	Failed internal hurdle	40%	45%	40% (capped)	Pass – 40
Student B	50%	36%	43%	Failed internal hurdle	26%	38%	43% (not capped, as module was failed second time)	Fail - 43

b) The position with the proposed amendment to the Regulations

	Assessment result	Exam result	Overall module mark	Result	Examination re-sit Result	Overall re-sit result	Final mark included in degree classification	Transcript shows
Student A	50%	36%	43%	Failed internal hurdle	40%	45%	40% (capped)	Pass – 40
Student B	50%	36%	43%	Failed internal hurdle	26%	38%	40% (capped)	Fail - 40