

02 February 2012

**Request for Amendment to University Legislation pertaining to Dual Degrees**

**Purpose of Paper**

1. APRC is asked to **consider**, and if thought appropriate, **approve in principle** an amendment to the Regulations, and also to the Ordinances of the University.

**Proposal**

2. That Regulation 6.4.1 be amended as follows (amendments underlined):

*Collaborative arrangements for institutions or organisations offering programmes of study leading to awards of the University or dual or joint awards with other institutions or organisations are subject to Regulations 5 - 8 but may be subject to separate programme regulations approved by Senate or its delegated authority. In the event of conflict between Regulations 5 – 8 and the separate programme regulations, the separate programme regulations applicable to the collaborative arrangements shall apply. Such institutions or organisations shall not be involved in establishing Regulations for the University of Birmingham, but will be kept informed of any changes. A student registered for a dual or joint programme shall adhere to University of Birmingham Regulations, Codes of Practice, policies and procedures save where a variation to the Regulations, Codes of Practice, policies and procedures shall have been agreed by the Senate or its delegated authority as part of the arrangements for the dual or joint degree programme.*

3. That Ordinance 4.1.2 be amended as follows (amendments underlined):

*Degrees included in the above list may be awarded dually or jointly with other institutions, subject to the approval by the Senate of the arrangements for such dual or joint awards. A list of degrees awarded dually or jointly with other institutions shall be maintained by the Director of Academic Services.*

4. That approval for these amendments be granted in principle pending approval of the introduction of dual PhD degree arrangements at the University of Birmingham. A paper is due to go to the Collaborative Provision Committee (CPC) on 02 February 2012. Should this proposal be approved at CPC and subsequently at Senate, it is requested that these legislative amendments be made with immediate effect.

**Background and Consultation**

5. Consultation has been undertaken with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research and Knowledge Transfer), the Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education), Collaborative Provision and other University Committees (as listed under Proposals), International Relations, Legal Services, University Graduate School, and Academic Services. In addition, the proposals have been informed by a review of other institutions' website (both home and international), and information garnered at seminars and conferences.

## Argument to Support Proposal

6. The development of dual degrees should:
  - a. strengthen links with international institutions as part of UoB's commitment to internationalisation.
  - b. provide a mechanism for developing or enhancing cooperation and collaboration between researchers and the institutions involved;
  - c. provide students with access to two educational institutions in different countries, thus enhancing the student experience, and professional, mobility and employability opportunities.
  - d. allow students to benefit from a wider pool of supervisors with at least two academics from at least two different institutions in two different countries;
  - e. students will be awarded two internationally recognized doctoral qualifications, thereby enhancing their student experience, employment and mobility opportunities.

7. The University has the power to award dual degrees, as laid out in the Charter:

### **11. University powers**

*The University may confer Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic distinctions whether honorary, substantive, dual, joint or otherwise and such Degrees, Diplomas, Certificates and other academic distinctions shall be conferred and held subject to any such provisions as may be made by the Statutes and Ordinances of the University.*

8. Should this proposal be approved, assurance will be sought that any collaborative institution has the legal and regulatory capacity to undertake and/or make awards through dual PhD degree arrangements.

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