

2 April 2012

Request for amendment to Section 8: Student Conduct of University Regulations

Purpose of Paper

1. APRC is asked to **consider**, and if thought appropriate, **approve** an amendment to Section 8: Student Conduct of University Regulations to come into effect for the academic year 2012/13.

Proposal

2. That Section 8: Student Conduct is amended as follows (deleted text scored-through):

8.3.1 Every alleged offence shall first be investigated by the Investigating Office, who shall be the Director of Academic Services or his or her nominee. Where the allegations relate to ~~serious~~ plagiarism or students on programmes subject to Fitness to Practise procedures, the Investigating Officer shall be nominated by the Head of College (or delegated authority).

Background and Consultation

3. This amendment was raised following the preparation of a briefing on the new Code of Practice on Plagiarism by Student Conduct and Appeals. Consultation on this amendment has been undertaken with Student Conduct and Appeals and Legal Services.

Argument to Support Proposal

4. As a result of the current wording, 8.3.1 contravenes the Code of Practice on Plagiarism by inferring that a College Investigating Officer is only involved in serious plagiarism cases. The investigation carried out by the Investigation Officer is, in fact, to determine what category any proven plagiarism is, namely:
 - a) Serious Plagiarism;
 - b) Moderate Plagiarism
 - c) Poor Academic Practice

Kieran McGovern
Student Conduct Officer
Registry