

02 February 2012

Report on Chair's Action taken between November 2011 and February 2012

Topic and Purpose of the paper

- 1 APRC is invited to **receive** the attached report and to **note** the Chair's Actions.

Chair's Actions

- 2 The following actions to approve amendments to legislation were taken between November 2011 and February 2012:

- a. Exemption from a series of Regulations for the PCGert Academic Research Methods and Study (PGCARMS)

Action taken on 07 December 2011 to grant exemption from a series of Regulations in order to allow doctoral researchers chosen for ESRC DTC funding to complete the PGCARMS in parallel to their doctoral studies over 3 years FT or 6 years PT. The exemption was required as some of the modules on this programme are focused largely on experiential and reflective learning tailored to the individual doctoral researcher and therefore it is more appropriate for these modules to be assessed on a pass/fail basis rather than given a numeric mark. As a result of this it is not possible to award the DR a merit or distinction, as a potentially large proportion of the credits required for the award may be marked on a pass fail basis.

- b. Amendment of the Student Senate Review Form

Action taken on 12 December 2011 in order to approve amendments to the Student Senate Review Form, which supplements the Code of Practice on Senate Review. The amendment requires that the student specify the basis upon which they are requesting a Senate Review, and requires the student to structure their request by stating clearly which procedural irregularities the request is being submitted in regards to. This did not constitute a change to procedure, merely a clarification to the information being requested.

- c. Code of Practice on personal Tutoring and Academic Feedback

Action taken on 15 December 2011. This Code of Practice was presented to APRC on 28th November. Following comments from APRC, and subsequently, UEC, this Code of Practice was amended to incorporate these comments. Chair's Action was taken to approve the final version of this Code of Practice for implementation in 2012/13 and for dissemination in briefing sessions prior to that date.

- d. Code of Practice on Adjusted Regulations and Bachelors Degrees

Action taken on 15 December 2011 to approve an amendment to correct a typographical error in this Code of Practice. The error

implied that it was possible to be awarded a pass degree with 70 level H credits with a weighted average of 35 – 39, but not necessarily with 80 or 90 credits with a weighted average of 35-39. This was clearly incorrect, and an in-year change to the Code of Practice was made to amend this error.

e. Code of Practice on Adjusted Regulations and Undergraduate Masters Degrees

Chair's Action taken on 05 January. This amendment built on an existing amendment to this Regulation approved by APRC at its meeting in November 2011. The amendment is designed to ensure that as far as possible, all undergraduate masters awards have provision for an alternative bachelor's exit qualification, while allowing flexibility through the use of the word "normally" for those programmes for which it would be impractical to undertake a research project in the third year. Such programmes therefore could not provide a bachelor's degree exit qualification at the end of the third year.

Timing

3 All actions to take effect immediately and for the duration of the foreseeable future.

Nina Morris
Academic Policy Officer
Registry