

University of Birmingham

Report from the meeting of the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee

PRESENT

APRC meeting on 9th October 2008:

Professor Stephen Shute, Deputy Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic Quality & Students) (Chair), Ms Margaret Cannadine (Academic Policy & Quality), Mr Paul Fantom (Academic Policy & Quality), Professor John Heath (College of Life & Education Sciences), Mr Tom Marley (Guild of Students – VP for Education & Access), Ms Clare McCauley (Academic Policy & Quality), Ms Carolyn Pike (Director of Legal Services), Mr Nick Ross (College of Medical & Dental Sciences) and Professor Cillian Ryan (College of Social Sciences).

Apologies: Professor Ken Dowden (College of Arts & Law).

ITEMS FOR REPORT

1. The Committee's Terms of Reference state:

To consider and, if thought appropriate, approve on behalf of the Senate proposals for amendments to, exemptions from and creation of new academic and student-related Regulations and guidance / policies / Codes of Practice below the level of Regulation.

Accordingly, under delegated authority, the Committee **reports** that it has approved:

(a) Revisions to Existing Codes of Practice:

- (i) Split Location Study for Postgraduate Research Students
- (ii) Adjusted Regulations and Bachelors Degrees
- (iii) Student Support and Development in principal academic units
- (iv) External Examining System for Taught Programmes

The Committee approved revisions to these Codes of Practice to bring them in line with new University roles and structures.

(b) A Policy on Professional Statutory and Regulatory Bodies

The Committee considered and approved a revised policy, following initial consideration by the Quality Assurance and Enhancement Committee.

(c) The Student Complaints Procedure

The Committee approved a revised Procedure, both to bring it in line with new University roles and structures and to reflect a revision to the Statutes limiting students' right to grieve. The new Student Complaints Procedure will be introduced, along with the new Statutes, in January 2009.

(d) A Code of Practice on Suspension of Students on Health Grounds and associated changes to Regulations

The Committee approved a new Code of Practice and associated regulations as a finalisation of legislation review undertaken in 2007/08. Accordingly, these changes were effective from 1st August 2008.

(e) A General Principle for Registered Students undertaking Additional Credit-Bearing Modules

The Committee considered and approved the general principle that all undergraduate students should be allowed to undertake up to 20 credits per annum of personal development modules. This principle was approved subject to the 20 credits being included within the maximum of 140 credits that a student may undertake in any one University session (Regulations 5.2.2 (g) (i) and 5.2.2 (g) (iv)).

All changes to academic policy and regulations (i.e. all changes listed above) will be available from <http://www.as.bham.ac.uk/study/support/governance/> and circulated to Schools and Colleges by 7th November 2008.

2. Terms of Reference and Membership

The Committee **reports** that it considered and approved revised terms of reference and membership of the Academic Policy & Regulations Committee, the Progress & Awards Board and the Research Progress & Awards Sub-Panel, subject to any further changes by the Senate.

3. HEFCE/ QAA Academic Policy

The Committee **reports** that it considered two papers:

- The Higher Education Credit Framework for England: Guidance on Academic Credit Arrangements in Higher Education in England, August 2008.
- The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, August 2008.

These papers raised a number of issues and questions, which the Committee would consider during its forthcoming meetings in 2009.

Clare McCauley
Secretary
November 2008