For APRC APRC.13.05.**08**
16th May 2013

Failure in Assessment

Purpose of Paper

1. APRC is invited ***to consider***, and if thought appropriate, ***to approve*** amendments to Regulation 7.2.6 (i) for 2012-13, in order to remove inconsistencies between this regulation and section 3.2.3 of the Code of Practice on the Assessment of Taught Programme and Module Assessment.

Proposals/Recommendations

2. That the Regulations are amended as follows (additions underlined, deletions struck through):

   7.2.6 Failure in Assessment

   7.2.6 (i) Registered Students may not normally be reassessed in or repeat any module for which they have obtained credit, except for Registered Students in exceptional personal difficulties who for sound educational reasons may ~~with the agreement of the Progress and Awards Board of Senate~~ be allowed to repeat modules for which they have already obtained credit.

   In such a circumstance, the mark used for calculating a Registered Student's weighted mean mark and progress or final degree classification shall be the mark obtained in the repeat attempt. If a Registered Student fails at the repeat attempt, any previously gained credit in that module will not stand.

Background

3. Section 3.2.3 of the Code of Practice on Taught Programme and Module Assessment states that the Board of Examiners have formal authority, exercised on behalf of Senate, to make final progress and award decisions notwithstanding University Regulations, if there are extenuating circumstances.

4. Students in exceptional personal difficulties will only be permitted to repeat modules for which they have already obtained credit if they have submitted Extenuating Circumstances with the appropriate evidence.

5. The current requirement for these cases to be approved by the Progress and Awards Board adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and delay and it seems unreasonable to treat a sub-set of extenuating circumstances cases in a different way.

Consultation

6. Following a recent enquiry from the School of Physics and Astronomy, discussion has taken place between the Head of Academic Policy and Standards and the Manager of Taught Student Administration. Dr Jon Green, Chair of the Progress and Awards Board, has confirmed his support for this proposal.

Arguments to Support Proposal Topic and Purpose of the Paper

7. It is recommended that from 2012-13 Regulation 7.2.6 (i) is amended to remove the requirement for extenuating circumstances cases where students have been permitted to repeat modules that they have already passed to be approved by the Progress and Awards Board.

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