**For the Academic Policy & Regulations Committee**
**11 February 2013**

**APRC.13.02.03**

# Amendment to Regulation 7

## Purpose of Paper

1. APRC is asked to ***consider*** and, if thought appropriate, ***approve*** an addition to Regulation 7, with effect from 2013/14.

## Proposal

2. It is proposed that Registered Students may be recommended for an award, even when they were originally registered to undertake modules only, if they subsequently accumulate sufficient credit for an award of the University.

*3.* The proposed addition to Regulation 7 is as follows:

*7.3.2 c)*
*Registered Students who commenced their registration with the intention of studying for modular credit rather than an award, but who subsequently accumulate credits equivalent to a University award, may be recommended for an award by their School to the Progress and Awards Board. Such a recommendation should take into account the regulatory requirements for the award in question (in particular the level of study and the timescale over which the credits have been accumulated) and the academic rationale for the award (such as the coherency of the modules taken by the student). Consideration will also need to be given to the title of the proposed award and its relationship with existing awards offered by the School. Awards will not be made where the credit achieved forms part of a separate award, for example in the case of students studying at the University as part of an exchange programme.*

## Background

4. Each year the University has a cohort of Registered Students who have been accepted to study for modular credit only. These are referred to as 'affiliate students' as they are not registered on a specified programme of study. Affiliate students typically take one or two professional development modules, leaving the University upon successful completion of those modules. In a small number of cases, however, affiliate students undertake further study with the University and accumulate credit equivalent to an award of the University.

5. Affiliate students who have accumulated credit equivalent to an award of the University have not been recommended for such an award. This is due to a number of factors:

   a. The modules undertaken do not typically correspond to an approved programme structure;
   b. The timescale over which the modules have been taken may be greater than that specified in Regulations for the award sought; and
   c. The admissions requirements for entrance onto a programme of study are much higher than to study for modular credit alone.

## Arguments to Support the Proposal

6. The University should give recognition to the achievement of its students. In an increasingly demanding HE market diversification of the student body is a necessary process; refusal to acknowledge the achievement of a particular subset of students may alienate that market.

7. The proposed addition to Regulation 7 provides a quality assurance framework to ensure that the academic standards of the University are maintained.

Gillian Davis
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