For the Academic Policy and Regulations Committee
23 November 2012

APRC.12.11.05

Request for Amendment to Code of Practice on Extenuating Circumstances and Fit to Sit Procedure

Purpose of Paper

1. APRC is asked to ***consider***, and, if thought appropriate, ***approve*** a change to section 3.3 of the above Code of Practice, with effect from the 2013/14 session.

Proposal

2. That the **timing** of the diagnosis of a prolonged, chronic or long-term condition is explicitly included in circumstances that may be considered as Extenuating Circumstances. Section 3.3 would read (insertions <u>underlined</u>):

> *3.3 Prolonged, chronic or long-term conditions are not normally considered a basis for Extenuating Circumstances. Registered Students with a chronic illness or disability are encouraged to access the support services available which can put in place reasonable adjustments for specific learning requirements and examinations (see Code of Practice on Reasonable Adjustments). <u>However, the **timing** of the diagnosis of such conditions may be considered a basis for Extenuating Circumstances. For example, late diagnosis such that adequate reasonable adjustments cannot be made.</u>*

Background

3. This recommendation arises from the resolution of a complaint in which this issue arose.

Arguments to Support the Proposal

4. Personal discussion with staff in positions where advice to this student could have been offered revealed that some believed that Extenuating Circumstances did not relate to such situations. Because Student Support Agreements cannot act retrospectively, the assumption was that conditions that were in existence prior to the diagnosis should not be addressed under this Code of Practice.

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