For APRC
16th May 2013

APRC.13.05.**15**

Amendment to University Code of Practice on Misconduct and Fitness to Practise Committee

1. Topic and Purpose of Paper

The Committee is invited **to *consider*** and, if thought appropriate, ***to approve*** amendments to the University Code of Practice on Misconduct and Fitness to Practise Committee.

2. Proposal

That the following amendments are made to the above Code of Practice as follows (insertions underlined, deletions struck through) to stipulate a University Fitness to Practise Committee should include a member of staff holding current GMC registration when considering the cases of MBChB students:

2.3 University Misconduct and Fitness to Practise Committee

2.3 .1 The Chair of the University Misconduct and Fitness to Practise Committee will be the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (normally PVC Education) or his/her nominee.

2.3 .2 The University Misconduct and Fitness to Practise Committee shall be drawn from two pools, 1 and 2.

2.3 .3 Pool 1 shall comprise no fewer than ~~at least~~ twelve members of academic staff of the University, at least one of whom shall hold current General Medical Council (GMC) registration.

2.3 .4 Pool 2 shall comprise no fewer than ~~at least~~ twelve members of honorary members of staff or external profession-specific representatives who are associated with programmes of study that incorporate Fitness to Practise procedures. At least one of these members shall hold current GMC registration.

2.3 .5 For appeals against the decision of the College Misconduct Committee there shall be two members chosen from Pool 1 and none from Pool 2.

2.3 .6 For appeals against the decision of the College Fitness to Practise Committee there shall be one member from Pool 1 and one from Pool 2.

2.3 .7 For appeals against the decision of the College Fitness to Practise Committee the members of staff chosen from Pool 1 and 2 should have substantial experience of fitness to practise issues through their involvement with the designated fitness to practise programmes as defined in Student Conduct Regulations 1.3. In the case of appeals from students registered for the degree of MBChB the Committee shall include at least one member holding current GMC registration.

3. Arguments to Support Proposal

Following a meeting between the General Medical Council (GMC) and the Medical Schools Council, the Chief Executive of the GMC wrote to all Vice-Chancellors of Universities with Medical Schools to emphasise the importance of Medical Schools' responsibility to graduate only those students who are fit to practise (in line with *Tomorrow's Doctors*).

In the light of this letter, the Dean of the Medical School has asked that all University Fitness to Practise Committees considering appeals from MBChB student should contain at least one member who holds current GMC registration.

In practice, for at least the last year in the case of MBChB students the Misconduct and Fitness to Practise Committee has included a member holding current GMC registration. The proposed change will capture this as a formal requirement.

4. Consultation

The request for the amendment has been made by the Dean of Medicine to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education). Legal Services and the Student Conduct Officer have been consulted on the proposed change.

Stephen Gower
Academic Policy & Standards
May 2013