

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
ACADEMIC POLICY AND REGULATIONS GROUP (APRG)

Minute of the Meeting held on 18 January 2023

Present: Gillian Mackintosh (**Chair**), Isabel Crane, Faye Hendry, Akua Serwaa Agyeman, Steve Tucker, with Liam Dyker (**Clerk**) in attendance.

REMIT AND COMPOSITION (2022/23)

(copy filed as APRG/180123/001)

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Group and noted the Group's establishment as a sub-group of QAC as part of the changes to the Education committees arising from the Senate Effectiveness and Governance Reviews. It was noted that the Director of Academic Services and Online Education was in the Chair pending the appointment of the Head of Quality. It was highlighted that the Group's purpose is to review draft policy and regulations for an in-depth review prior to the consideration at QAC. It was further noted that the Quality Code Mapping is intended to be a standing item on the agenda, but individual sections would be brought to each meeting.
- 1.2 Regarding membership, the Group discussed the vacancies regarding the Head of Quality and the academic staff and student representatives. It was clarified that the Dean for Quality Assurance and Enhancement is on the Group currently as an academic member, but consideration could be given as to whether it is more appropriate for them to sit on the Group in their own right. Disciplinary spread of appointed members was noted.
- 1.3 In relation to interface with other committees, it was noted that the outputs of the Group may require consideration at QAC and/or UEC, dependent on the nature of the policy or regulation development proposed.
- 1.4 The Group was content with the Remit and Composition and noted it will be kept under review as work progresses.

OMNIBUS RESOLUTION (2022/23)

(copy filed as APRG/180123/002)

- 2.1 The Group received a summary of the proposed regulatory changes as proposed in the Omnibus Resolution. Each regulatory change was discussed in turn as follows:
 - (i) General Regulations for First Degrees
- 2.2 The Group was advised that Regulation 16.1, concerning student progression, was updated in line with current practice and to clarify terminology in respect of courses and programmes. The process for students who have 240 credits and between 210 and 240 credits at the end of Level 2 was discussed. It was noted that the proposed changes will also require clear communication to students regarding their position.
- 2.3 Discussion ensued regarding the credits from Levels 1 and 2 in respect of compulsory courses and additional credits at Level 3. Responding, it was advised that students will be able to progress if they have the required credits and the relevant compulsory courses. The role of

the Students' Progress Committee was noted in this process. It was noted that this will be handled centrally by Registry.

2.4 Confirmation was sought with regard to repeating or resitting a year whereby a student has not made the required number of credits. It was noted that a case could be made to the Students' Progress Committee, otherwise, the student could resit as an external candidate.

(ii) Regulations for Degrees Undertaken at the Aberdeen institute of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence at South China Normal University (SCNU)

2.5 The Group was advised that all students are required to undertake English Language, with requirements for the successful completion of IELTS at level 6.0. It was noted that the regulations will not be prescriptive in the requirements should any changes be required in future. Members sought confirmation regarding the exclusion of English language courses in the regulations. Responding, it was noted that the English language courses are separate from the academic courses studied as part of their programmes.

(iii) Supplementary Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Music (BMus)

2.6 The Group was content with the change regarding the removal of Community Music.

(iv) Supplementary Regulations for the Professional Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE)

2.7 The Group was content with the change regarding the removal of PGDE (DLITE).

(v) Regulations for the Degree of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery

2.8 The Group was advised that the introduction of a regulation regarding the Applied Knowledge Test (AKT) was in response to changes to the Medical Licensing Assessment from the General Medical Council. It was noted that the test is due to launch in 2024/25, with the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition responsible for the running of the test. The opportunities of assessment was highlighted, noting the desire to stay in line with the sector. The Group was content with the proposed introduction of the regulation.

2.10 In relation to future regulatory changes, the Group was advised that work will be undertaken to make amends to references in the General Regulations to the Summer School for Access, which no longer exists and has been replaced by online bridging courses. Further, it was noted that work will be undertaken to create a set of Undergraduate Integrated Masters' degree regulations to include the MBus Degree. It was agreed that these amendments will be brought to APRG in late February / early March ahead of the March QAC and April Senate meetings.

2.11 In relation to next steps, it was agreed that the Omnibus Resolution would be issued to QAC by circulation and will report to Senate as part of the QAC Report for routine approval.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

3.1 The Group noted the remit, which detailed meetings will take place at least 5 times a year, preceding QAC meetings. It was noted that *ad hoc* arranged meetings will be required at specific points to discuss relevant business.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 4.1 The Group agreed that the next meeting should take place in late February/early March to precede the next QAC meeting. It was agreed that work should begin on reviewing the quality code.