

The University of Edinburgh

**Minutes of the Senate Academic Policy and Regulations Committee (APRC) meeting
held online on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 2.00pm**

Present:

Professor Alan Murray (Convener)	Assistant Principal, Academic Support
Dr Jeremy Crang	Dean of Students (CAHSS)
Dr Paul Norris	Dean of Quality Assurance and Curriculum Approval (CAHSS)
Kirsty Woomble	Head of PGR Student Office (CAHSS)
Professor Judy Hardy	Dean of Learning and Teaching (CSE)
Stephen Warrington	Dean of Student Experience (CSE)
Alex Laidlaw	Head of Academic Affairs (CSE)
Dr Antony Maciocia	Dean of Postgraduate Research (CSE)
Philippa Burrell	Head of Academic Administration (CMVM)
Professor Neil Turner	Dean of Undergraduate Learning and Teaching (CMVM)
Dr Paddy Hadoke	Director of Postgraduate Research and Early Career Research Experience (CMVM)
Fizzy Abou Jawad	Vice President Education, Students' Association
Gin Lowdean	Advice Place Manager, Students' Association
Dr Cathy Bovill	Institute for Academic Development (IAD)
Dr Adam Bunni	Head of Governance and Regulatory Framework Team, Academic Services
Sarah McAllister	Student Systems and Administration

In attendance:

Tom Ward	Edinburgh Futures Institute
Rachael Quirk	Head of Taught Student Administration and Support (CAHSS)
Ailsa Taylor (Secretary)	Academic Policy Officer, Academic Services

Apologies for absence:

Dr Lisa Kendall	Director of Academic and Student Administration (CAHSS)
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1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 January 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

Electronic business and Convener's Action had been conducted since the last meeting on 24 September 2020 as follows:

- a) Electronic Business – PGT Concession (credit on aggregate vs progression) 21 January 2021-15 February 2021;

- b) Additional time allowance for 24-hour duration examinations 24 February 2021-28 February 2021.

3. Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI) Postgraduate Taught Programmes: preliminary discussion about potential opt-outs for regulations (Paper A)

Mr Tom Ward presented this item. EFI was in the process of developing a suite of new PGT programmes. The intention was to seek formal approval for these in April 2021 for the first six of these, and launch them in 2022/23. EFI was seeking the Committee's views on their proposed approaches to addressing the regulatory issues, with a view to submitting formal proposals for opt-outs in spring 2021 (after the EFI Curriculum Board had considered full proposals for the programmes at its meeting in April 2021). Comments on possible options for consideration at EFI were discussed:

- Viva could be considered as a possible resit option for the pass/fail course;
- Group projects pose issues when it comes to coursework extensions, so this would need consideration;
- Adding an item of individual element of assessment for the group project as well as group assessment may offset some concerns about group assessment;
- In CMVM PGT online would be interested in the flexibility for EFI programmes and introducing some of this in their programmes, therefore it would be worth EFI linking with CMVM PGT on this;
- Some areas of CSE have experience of running group projects on Integrated Master's and other programmes; CSE were happy to discuss, or put EFI colleagues in touch with the course organiser in Engineering for the MEng GDP projects;
- Regulatory elements to UoE credit in relation to the degree regulation on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) should be considered further by APRC; this regulation could be revisited in 2021/22 for the 2022/23 regulations. The intention was to form a clearer distinction between UoE and non-UoE credit. The consensus from the Committee was that we could be more relaxed about RPL for UoE credit than the current regulation suggested;
- Reference was made to the principles of avoiding double counting credit and ensuring enough Edinburgh credit for an Edinburgh degree;
- EFI was to discuss system issues further with Student Systems in April 2021;
- The Committee voiced a longer term desire to try to resolve some of the more general regulatory and administrative issues across the University around lifelong learning and non-graduating students.

4. Una Europa PhD in Cultural Heritage (CLOSED B)

This paper provided information on proposed arrangements for the Una Europa PhD in Cultural Heritage. APRC approved the concept of the certificate and agreed that the Convener of APRC could review the template certificate once it became available, on behalf of the Committee.

5. Covid-19: further mitigation measures; Board of Examiners guidance (Paper C)

Dr Bunni presented this item. APRC approved the additional concessions relating to credit on aggregate for final year Ordinary/General degrees and expansion of the PGT dissertation resubmission window to 40-49. This would be reflected in the

guidance for Boards of Examiners, which was expected to be finalised by mid-April 2021 and published on SharePoint. The case studies to support the guidance would take a little longer to put together, but work had already started on these.

6. PhD by Research Oral Examinations by Video Link (Paper D)

Dr Antony Maciocia presented this item. The paper was approved by the Committee.

7. CSE: Extensions to Correction Periods in Doctoral Degrees (Paper E)

Professor Antony Maciocia presented this item. The paper was approved by the Committee.

It was noted that it would be beneficial to return in the near future to a discussion about a potential role for the Doctoral College in the approval of individual student PGR concessions. APRC currently deals with a large volume of concessions of this type.

8. CAHSS: Non-standard academic year for Executive MBA Part-Time (Paper I)

This paper was approved by the Committee.

9. CMVM: Online Postgraduate Taught Programmes (proposed amendment to start of academic year 2021/22) (Paper F)

This paper was approved by the Committee.

10. Undergraduate Degree Regulations 2021/22 (Paper G)

These proposed Undergraduate Degree Regulations for 2021/22 were approved as presented, subject to amendment of any typos. These would be sent to University Court for formal approval.

11. Postgraduate Degree Regulations 2021/22 (Paper H)

These proposed Undergraduate Degree Regulations for 2021/22 were approved as presented, subject to the amendment of any typos. These would be sent to University Court for formal approval.

12. Convenership and Vice-Convenership of APRC from 1 August 2021

Dr Paul Norris (Dean of Quality Assurance and Curriculum Approval, CAHSS) was approved as Convener of APRC from 1 August 2021.

Professor Judy Hardy (Dean of Learning and Teaching, CSE) was approved as Vice-Convenership of APRC from 1 August 2021.

13. Any Other Business

The Committee received an item of further business from Mr Scott Rosie, Head of Timetabling and Examination Services about the re-introduction of the resit diet. Any

comments could be fed back to Mr Rosie directly and he would co-ordinate feedback and an emerging position.