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From: WINNIE YAP SOO PING <Winnie.Yap@nottingham.edu.my>
Sent: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 11:24 AM
To: Faculty of Science Staff
Cc: STEPHEN DOUGHTY; CLAIRE O'MALLEY; PATRICK JOSEPH
Subject: Updates on Academic Progression and Award Regulations (APAR) for 2015/2016

Good morning colleagues,

Hope this email of mine finds you in good health and spirit.

I am writing to inform all of you about the changes that will be made to the Quality Manual regulations, programme specifications and associated processes following acceptance at QSC/TLB (confirmation received in Sep 2015) of a number of recommendations from the Academic Progression and Award Regulations (APAR) working group. The work of the APAR working group has been on-going throughout the last two academic sessions, consultations were undertaken in 2014/2015 and the relevant University Committees have now made their decisions on proposed recommendations.

The University has decided (effectively as of now) to standardise the regulations for weightings of Part I and Part II, what constitutes a borderline for degree classification and what the criteria are for borderline students to be raised. Please kindly see below for details on these changes in which I have highlighted those in yellow that will affect Schools in the Faculty and these will supersede what is written in the student Handbooks. Please notify your tutees of these new rules – students just starting with us and those going into Part I are governed by them immediately, whilst those students about to enter Part II will be considered under both the old and the new rules and be awarded whichever result is best for them.

Thank you.

Best regards,
Winnie

New Regulations for degree classifications across the University

Method by which degrees are classified

- Undergraduate degree classification will be based upon the weighted mean mark achieved over identified stages (with defined weightings given to the stages being considered) – Arithmetic mean.

Standardisation of stage weightings for final degree mark

- The standardised weighting for a Bachelor's degree should be 33/67 for Parts I and II respectively, and the standardised weighting for an Integrated Master's degree (undergraduate) should be 20/40/40 for Parts I, II and III respectively. It is noted that some programmes may need to be exempted from this if there are professional body requirements which conflict.

Standardisation of borderline algorithms

Classification borderline: Mark bands for undergraduate honours degrees / Programme average mark (credit and stage weighted)

- 2:1-1st / 68%, 69%

- 2:2-2:1 / 58%, 59%
- 3rd-2:2 / 48%, 49%

A student should be given the higher class if either of the following criteria are met:

- Half or more of the final stage credits are in the higher class;
- Half or more of the final and penultimate stage credits are in the higher class.

Removal of the Ordinary Degree Pathway

- The Quality Manual has been amended such that transfer to an Ordinary Degree pathway is no longer allowed in the UK, UNNC or in Malaysia.

When will these new rules come into operation?

- It is intended that the new regulations will apply to students entering Qualifying and Part I in the 2015/16 academic year but that where consideration under the new regulations would give a better outcome for a Finalist, their award should be made under those rules such that Finalists are not disadvantaged when compared to students finishing a year later.

For further information, please kindly go to:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/apar/academic-progression-and-award-regulations.aspx>

Quality Manual Updates

To supplement this implementation, updates are needed to a number of Quality Manual policies. Over the next few days these will be changed. In some cases this will involve Policies currently being changed are:

Degree classification:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/degree-classification.aspx>

Programme specification guidance:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/curriculum/programmespecificationguidance.aspx>

Module specification guidance:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/curriculum/modulespecificationguidance.aspx>

Joint Honours Exam Boards:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/management-of-joint-honours-boards.aspx>

Regulations which may vary in China/Malaysia:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/curriculum/studyregulationschinaandmalaysia.aspx>

Application of regulations for students who fail to meet honours requirements:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/application-of-regulations-for-students-who-fail-to-meet-honours-requirements.aspx>

The UNQF:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/curriculum/unqf.aspx>

Maximum period from initial registration:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/registrationattendanceandstudy/maximum-period-from-initial-registration.aspx>

Recognition of other learning (ROL)

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/studiesawayfromtheuniversity/recognitionofotherlearning.aspx>

This leaves updates to the Undergraduate regulations which will be uploaded once QSC/TLB have finished considering the small number of matters currently out for approval.

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/academicservices/qualitymanual/assessmentandawards/studyregulationsforundergraduatecourses.aspx>