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**Senate**

**Subject: Review of Regulation XXI (Postgraduate Awards)**

**Origin: Academic Registry**

1. **Executive Summary**

This paper proposes changes to Regulation XXI (paragraphs 22; 28; 33-41; 42 onwards). Paragraph 22 relates to the process for considering IP claims to align it with the processes for UG students; paragraphs 33-41 relate to PG reassessment rights and the remainder are numerical changes arising from the insertion of new paragraph 41.

This paper was discussed by the Academic Standards and Procedures Sub-Committee (ASPSC) on 21 May. The extract from the minutes of ASPSC follows:

**“12/13 Proposed Amendment to Regulation XXI (Postgraduate Awards)**

ASPSC12-P06

Members considered a proposal from the Academic Registry for amendments to paragraphs 22; 28; 33-41; 42 onwards of Regulation XXI relating to the process for considering impaired performance claims to align it with the equivalent process for undergraduate students and to postgraduate reassessment rights. Amendments to paragraphs 33-41 had previously been discussed by the Sub-Committee in October 2011 (ASPSC M11/05) and had been approved in principle.

The proposal was seen to be of benefit to students. Therefore it was considered appropriate for the amended regulations to be applied to existing students also.

**It was AGREED to recommend the amendment to the regulations to LTC to come into effect from the start of the 2012/13 academic year for existing and new students.**

This paper was also approved by Learning and Teaching Committee (LTC) on 14 June.

1. **PGT Reassessment Rights**

In October 2011, ASPS agreed, in principle, changes to paragraphs 33-41, Regulation XXI (Postgraduate Awards) in relation to reassessment rights. The underlying principles were agreed as follows:

1. Following Review Boards, PGT students should be offered reassessment in any module in which they have failed to gain credit (50%). Reassessment modules will be capped at 50%.
2. PGT students will only have one reassessment (ie two attempts in total) on any module, excluding permitted repeat assessments.
3. Students may opt to “carry” up to 30 credits at 40-49%. In some circumstances, PGT students may, at a later date, be allowed to re-sit “carried” modules (see point 6 for the implications of this).
4. PGT students may split reassessment over SAP and NAY, where SAP is permitted by the Programme Regulations. Departments/Schools should be mindful of the effect that taking SAP assessments could have on a student’s ability to deliver Project.
5. PGT students will **normally** be expected to take reassessment within 12 months of the Review Board at which reassessment rights were confirmed. This may be extended to 24 months where Dean of School approves deferral.
6. Where reassessment decisions (ie carrying modules and picking them up at a later date) make it impossible for the student to meet time restrictions in 5, they will be required to resit “with attendance”. (Departments/Schools will be able to apply for regs waivers in exceptional circumstances and where academic case for non-attendance can be made).

Following the meeting of ASPS, all ADTs were given the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. Responses were received from 5 Schools (not all from the ADTs).  All comments were positive and supported the proposals except for one which express a concern that the reassessment workload would increase.  Whilst this is a legitimate concern, we did not find this to be the case when we relaxed the regulations for UG students in 2008.

1. **Senate Action Required**

Senate is asked to **APPROVE** the detailed amendments to Regulation XXI as presented in Appendix 1. with effect from 1 August 2012.

Appendix 1

**Regulation XXI: Postgraduate Awards**

**Impaired Performance and Viva-Voce Decisions**

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| 22. | If, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation XVII, a Programme Board or Review Board receives a recommendation from the relevant Impaired Performance Panel, or a Review Board brings the case of an individual student to the Programme Board’s attention, in accordance with paragraph 23 hereof, then the relevant Board may for any module for which a claim has been made ~~that is being taken into account~~:  |
|   | 22.1 | increase any of the student's component marks;  |
|   | 22.2 | substitute alternative component marks derived from appropriate sources;  |
|   | 22.3 | where the student was taking the module on a first attempt basis, permit the student to repeat any or all parts of the module assessment on a first attempt basis;  |
|   | 22.4 | where the student was taking the module on a second attempt basis, permit the student to repeat any or all parts of the module assessment on a second attempt basis;  |
|   | 22.5 | take no action.  |

**Criteria for Awards**

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| 28.  | Students shall normally be eligible for the award of only one University qualification from any particular programme of study. Except where a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate has been awarded as a consequence of a student’s studies being terminated in accordance with paragraph ~~43~~ 44 hereof, awards may be upgraded by the accumulation of additional credit as follows:  |
| 28.  | Students shall normally be eligible for the award of only one University qualification from any particular programme of study. Except where a Postgraduate Diploma or a Postgraduate Certificate has been awarded as a consequence of a student’s studies being terminated in accordance with paragraph 44 hereof, awards may be upgraded by the accumulation of additional credit as follows:  |

**Re-Assessment Rights**

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| 33. | Students who fail to gain credit in a module at the first attempt shall be eligible to take reassessment in that module on one occasion only. Any Module Assessment taken under the provisions of this paragraph shall hereinafter be referred to as a second attempt module assessment. Where students opt not to take reassessment in modules with a mark of 40% - 49% at the earliest opportunity, further opportunities for reassessment *may* arise in accordance with paragraphs 38-40. |
| 34. | Candidates who have registered for second attempt module assessments in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 33 hereof may repeat any or all of the modules with attendance, subject to the payment of tuition fees, if the module is available and if they first obtain permission from the School/Department teaching the module. In such a case, candidates will be required to produce new work in every assessment contributing to the module, notwithstanding any decisions made by a Programme Board or Review Board in accordance with paragraph 35 hereof.  |
| 35. | The Programme Board or Review Board shall receive recommendations from the relevant Responsible Examiner(s) for each student and shall, for each module, determine which of the student's present marks may without further assessment be carried forward in the re-assessment process should the student choose to repeat the module without attendance. Notwithstanding this decision, students may opt to undergo any component of the module's assessment.  |
| 36.  | Where, at the first attempt, a student achieves a Module Mark of 40% to 49% inclusive in a project or dissertation module, the same piece of work may be revised and resubmitted at reassessment as a second attempt.  |
| 37.  | Except where the provisions of paragraph 35 or 36 hereof apply, new work shall be completed by the student for reassessment.  |

**Re-Assessment Timing**

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| 38. | Reassessment shall normally take place no later than during the academic year immediately following that in which the failure occurred.  |
| 39. | Where Programme Regulations permit, the student may choose to take reassessment in the Special Assessment Period and/or in the academic year immediately following that in which the failure occurred.  |
| 40. | In exceptional cases, the Dean of School may permit reassessment to be deferred, usually by a maximum of one academic year. Where a Dean of School permits reassessment to be deferred for more than one year, the student must be registered for the module with attendance and pay the associated fees. Where a Dean of School approves leave of absence under the provisions of Regulation IX for a student who has outstanding reassessment rights, this will be taken as approval for deferral of reassessment and the Dean of School shall be required to specify the revised reassessment timescale prior to the leave of absence approval being processed..41. The Academic Registrar shall determine and publish the dates of a Special Assessment Period each year falling between the end of Semester Two and the beginning of the next academic year.  |

Paragraphs 41-49 are re-numbered 42-50 as a result of the insertion of paragraph 41 above.