University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 13 February 2015

Matters Arising: Report from the Meeting of Academic Regulations Sub-Committee held on 21 October 2014 (ASC/2014/24.1)

Mrs Lesley Fielding, Clerk to the Committee

Mr Hastings from Registry and Ms Young from the School of Psychology met to discuss the difficulties encountered by the School in arranging assessments for visiting students. Psychology's modules are delivered in two blocks in Semester 1, with the first block being examined in December but the second in April/May. Previously Psychology permitted those visiting students, exiting at the end of Semester 1, to undertake an essay type assessment instead of the exam. However, the Code of Assessment (16.80) stipulates that:

'Where a course's scheme of assessment includes a component taken under examination conditions, the varied scheme shall normally include a component of assessment under examination conditions.'

Therefore, this option was no longer viable. Possible alternative options are:

- The School would reduce the choice available to these visiting students, i.e. as they are absent in Semester 2, they would be permitted to take only the modules examined in Semester 1. This would ensure parity as all students would be assessed in the same way, but the limited choice may affect recruitment to the course.
- 2. The School would schedule the visiting students on the modules examined in April/May themselves. Currently, they are unable to do this due to insufficient resources and an inability to clash check these student exams against their other choices which is the same problem experienced by Registry. The option of Registry taking this on as a manual process for the University is an inefficient one and would add error and time to the production of the timetable, with time pressure already an issue for the December exam diet

Mr Hastings and a member of the Registry Exams Team will attend a meeting with the College of Science and Engineering in February to discuss matters arising from the December exam diet. It is planned to discuss this issue and to gauge the extent of the problem in other Schools.

The source of the difficulty appears to be visiting students being admitted to courses that are taught and examined in Semesters 1 and 2, so their exam diet is recorded on MyCampus as April/May. Mr Hastings plans to discuss this matter with SLSD to ascertain their understanding of the process now and what the options are available.