

UNIVERSITY OF YORK

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT

Minutes of the Special Meeting held on Friday, 8 April 2022 at 1.00pm via Zoom online video conferencing.

Attendance and apologies for absence:

Present:	Dr Patrick Gallimore (Chair)	York Law School
	Daniel Baker	Psychology
	Mike Bentley	Physics
	Dr Jim Buller	Politics
	Matt Johnstone	YUSU
	Ekansh Kapoor	GSA
	Dr Alet Roux	Mathematics

In attendance:

Zara Burford	Representing Online Programmes
Zoe Devlin	Executive Officer to Academic Registrar
Dr Stephen Gow (Secretary)	Academic Integrity Coordinator
Cecilia Lowe	Head of Learning Enhancement
Claire Pinder (Minutes)	Administration Coordinator (S&AS)
Vanessa Richardson-Pratt	Progression and Awards
Dr Jen Wotherspoon	Deputy Director SAAA

Apologies:

Prof. Kate Arnold	Dean of York Graduate Research School
Dr Kevin Caraher	SPSW
Dr Martin Cockett	Chair of Special Cases Committee
Eddie Cowling	International Pathway College
Dr Jasper Heinzen	History
Dr Katherine Selby	Natural Sciences/Environment and Geography
Kathryn Lucas	Special Cases Manager

m21-22/52 Welcome

Introduction to this special meeting of the Committee by SCA Chair with working group lead Professor Mike Bentley.

m21-22/53 Awards and Progression Working Group - Recommendations for SCA The SCA Committee is asked to consider the following ten recommendations for “in-principle” approval/endorsement. Once SCA has considered these recommendations, and approved them in principle/endorsed them, there would be a consultation with Departments (through a special BoE form and email consultation). Following this consultation, the recommendations/proposals (modified if necessary) will be presented to SCA for full approval in July 2022.

The scope of the working group's remit of award and progression rules had been set by SCA.

i. Limits on the number of credits of outright fail, for the purpose of allowing reassessments

Endorsement of recommendation i was sought from SCA:

All limits on outright fails, are removed for all UG and PGT programmes.

The following points were noted:

- It was estimated on current numbers that this would positively impact around 7 out of 12000 PGT students per year
- This recommendation would simplify current rules, aiding transparency and ease of understanding, and would positively impact students.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

ii. Limits on the total number of credits of fail, for the purpose of allowing reassessments in UGT programmes

Endorsement of recommendation ii was sought from SCA:

Students will be entitled to reassessments in a stage as long as they have failed no more than 60 credits for stages 2, 3, 4 and no more than 80 credits for stage 1.

The following points were noted:

- Recommendation ii would rebalance the failure rate of students who have resits at Stage 3.
- This recommendation would simplify current rules, aiding transparency, consistency, and ease of understanding, and would positively impact students.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

iii. Limits on the total number of credits of fail, for the purpose of allowing reassessments in PGT programmes

Endorsement of Recommendation iii was sought from SCA:

Students will be entitled to reassessments in the taught stage of the programme as long as they have failed no more than 60 credits. (They will be allowed 60 credits of reassessments).

The following points were noted:

- PGT students were currently entitled to 40 credits as resits. Recommendation iii would lead to extra resits, about 65 per year, so would have minimal impact on workload, since most fails at PGT were marginal fails, not outright fails.
- Recommendation iii was a relaxation of current rules.
- This recommendation would simplify current rules, aiding transparency, consistency, and ease of understanding, and would positively impact students.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

iv. Reassessment rules for large (80-credit) Capstone Project Modules (=ISMs) in integrated masters programmes

Endorsement of this recommendation was sought from SCA:

If a student fails an 80-credit CPM, reassessment is allowed but only if (a) the mark is between 40-49 and (b) no other modules are failed in that stage. N.b if the resit limit is 60 credits (Rec 2), and all modules are in multiples of 20 credits, it is only 80-credit CPMs that need a special rule.

The following points were noted:

- This recommendation would have a small impact, and may only affect roughly 2 students over 3 years, as per analysis of recent students.
- This recommendation would simplify current rules, aiding transparency, consistency, and ease of understanding, and would positively impact a small number of students.
- This recommendation should apply to both 60 and 80 credit ISM's.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

v. Compensation in the final (graduating) year of UG Programmes

Endorsement of this recommendation was sought from SCA:

The minimum module mark for compensation for ALL stages of programmes is 30 for C-, I and H-level modules and 40 for M-level modules. (i.e. the 10% rule is removed).

The following points were noted:

- The working group were in favour of the recommendation to remove current rules which prevented some students from graduating at their first attempt in their final year.
- 20 credit modules, and capping the compensatable pass mark should assist equitability for students graduating at their first attempt in their final year.
- Extensive case modeling indicated that recommendation v. would be of most benefit to students in the science departments.
- This recommendation would simplify current rules, aiding transparency, and consistency. It would positively impact students, and would improve overall equitability across departments.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

vi. Capping of marks following Reassessment (connected to recommendation v.)

Endorsement of this recommendation was sought from the SCA:

The following points were noted:

- UKSCQA degree classification data showed that the majority of institutions allow resits results to be applied when capped at pass mark. The University of York may be one of the few institutions to currently use first sit marks in the overall degree calculation. The recommendation could have an inflationary impact - 18 students on current data would get a higher degree class, and 1 student would go down.
- PGT cap was 40. This recommendation was not expected to impact PGT students.
- There was a potential inequity in that students who failed at their first attempt would be able to leap-frog over students who had passed at their first attempt. Students who passed at their first attempt would not have the opportunity to resit for a higher mark.
- This recommendation would bring the University of York inline with sector-wide practice.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation with the requirement that the section on capping be rephrased, so that resit marks would be capped at 50.

vii. Rounding numbers in degree classification calculations

Endorsement of this recommendation was sought from the SCA:

(a) In the classification of degrees, students are identified as “borderline” if their unrounded award mark, calculated using the usual stage weightings, lies two marks below a degree class boundary.

(b) No change to current rules (module marks remain as integers)

The following points were noted:

- The current borderline is 2.5% points - the recommendation would affect only two students per year, based on modeling of current students.
- Rounding would be both up and down so there would be no compounded inflationary effect from successive rounding.
- UKSCQA had been contacted and had agreed that the recommendation would not have an inflationary effect.
- This recommendation would positively impact students.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

viii. Progression and Compensation in Masters PGT programmes.

Endorsement of this recommendation was sought from the SCA:

To qualify for the award of a PGT Masters, both the taught component and the CPM must be separately passed. That is, compensation is only allowed within the taught component, and that compensation between the taught and ISM components (in either direction) will not be permitted.

There would need to be an exam board, as now, after the completion of the taught component. N.b. this mirrors the effect of the current progression point.

The following points were noted:

- Taught and CPM marks do not compensate each other.
- This recommendation was required in order to provide formal endorsement of current practice in the context of movement of the progression board.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

ix. Changes to Merit and Distinction Criteria for PGT Masters

Endorsement of this recommendation of changes to merit and distinction criteria for PGT Masters was sought from the SCA:

MERIT

- a rounded credit weighted mean of at least 60 over all modules, and*
- a rounded credit weighted mean of at least 60 in the Capstone Project Module.*

DISTINCTION

- a rounded credit weighted mean of at least 70 over all modules, and*
- a rounded credit weighted mean of at least 70 in the Capstone Project Module.
(i.e. the criteria related to failed modules are removed)*

The following points were noted:

- Jasper Heizen had noted that the preferred option was to apply less weight to the ISM/CPM - based on just a straight rounded credit mean.
- Committee Members favoured retaining fail criteria
- A quarter of students get distinctions, and half of students get merits currently.
- This recommendation would provide incentives to students.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

X. Special progression Criteria for Integrated Masters

Endorsement of this recommendation of special progression criteria for Integrated Masters was sought from the SCA:

Additional Requirement for Progression to Stage 3. *To progress to Stage 3, the credit-weighted mean over all modules in Stage 2, rounded to the nearest integer, must be at least 55. First-attempt module marks, or capped reassessment marks, whichever is the greater, will be used for this purpose.*

Additional Requirement for Progression to Stage 4. *To progress to Stage 4, the credit-weighted mean over all modules in Stages 2 and 3, rounded to the nearest integer, must be at least 50. First-attempt module marks, or capped reassessment marks, whichever is the greater, will be used for this purpose.*

(rule (a) has been removed from the second set of criteria)

The following points were noted:

- The reason for removing criteria was that it had not had any affect on students, and only one student had been found who had failed to meet criteria.
- When considering minimum marks, original marks would be used.

Committee Members endorsed this recommendation.

3. Date of Next Meeting

The next SCA meeting would be held on Friday 13 May at 2.00 pm via Zoom.