

LTC17D128

Title: Update on LTC review of “*Submission of work for Assessment Policy*”
2017-18 –Coursework penalties

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Issue

In the previous academic year (2016/17) a Working Group was convened to review the Submission of Working Group for Assessment Policy. Related policies (on moderation, or extenuating circumstances for example) were out of scope.

A number of recommendations were made by the group, approved by LTC and the changes made to the policy for 2017/18. *Reference LTC 16D130.*

However, there was disagreement about the proposed change to penalties. Members of the working group hold very different views about coursework penalties and it has not been possible to reach a consensus.

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to approve the decision not to change the penalties for numerically marked work. This will leave the policy unchanged for 2018/19.

Summary of discussion:

The **original proposal** was that penalties applied to both word count and late submission to be changed to percentage deduction rather than a straight deduction of marks. The rationale for this was that this would seem fairer to students, as the current policy disproportionately penalises at the lower end – e.g. a 10% penalty would take a 50% mark down to 45% (rather than 40% if deduct 10 marks) and an 80% mark down to 72% (rather than 70% if deduct 10 marks).

A counter argument is that the current penalty scheme with the existing numerical deduction provides a “fixed penalty” scheme and as such is actually fairer to students, as it is very easy to understand and clear that the penalty will be applied consistently across all work – without taking into account the mark achieved. On this basis, students will always know what to expect from the penalty scheme.

It is also noted that it is easier (and therefore more efficient) administratively to deduct straight points rather than calculate a percentage.

There is mixed practice across the sector and some HEIs have penalty schemes which are particularly complicated. A feature of the current UEA scheme is that it is well understood by both staff and students and this should be seen as a strength.

Current recommendation

On the basis that there was disagreement within the working group, we recommend that there are **no changes made to the current penalty scheme** and the policy is left unchanged for 2018/19, available on the web [here](#).

Resource Implications

There are no resource implications associated with the proposal.

Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with the proposal.

Equality and Diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications associated with the proposal

Timing of decisions

Approval by LTC will result in no changes to the policy being applied from the 2018/19 academic year.

Further Information

Contact Rachel Paley r.paley@uea.ac.uk

Attachments

The proposed policy for publication in the 2018/19 Calendar (no changes from that published in 2017/18).