

## LTC13D082

**Title:** *Changes to General Regulations for 2014-15*  
**Author:** Lisa Williams, Assistant Registrar, VCO  
**Date:** 24.4.14  
**Circulation:** LTC Members  
**Agenda:** LTC13D082, Item A6  
**Version:** Final  
**Status:** Open

---

### Issue

A report on changes to General Regulations for 2014-15, following the new process agreed by PVC-ACAD and reported to the February SEC meeting.

### Recommendation

Recipients are invited to approve the changes agreed by the Working Group chaired by Pro-Vice-Chancellor Academic. The changes were also considered and approved in principle by the Student Experience Committee.

### Resource Implications, Risk Implications, Equality and Diversity

n/a

### Timing of decisions

The new regulations will take effect from registration 2014-15 and will be communicated to all students in advance.

### Further Information

Lisa Williams, Assistant Registrar, VCO [lisa.williams@uea.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.williams@uea.ac.uk) Tel: 01603 593612

### Background

In the past Heads of Service have regularly been invited to update and revise General Regulations, in the light of experience. Revised General Regulations were put in place for 2013-14, including revisions made by the Dean of Students who is responsible for paragraphs 4,5,8,10,12.

In response to complaints from the Students' Union about a lack of transparency in the process and the nature of some of the revisions for 2013-14, PVC-ACAD agreed to discuss a new process for consultation for future years. Ultimately the University will decide on regulations but PVC-ACAD was keen to ensure the student voice is heard in decisions re: regulations. PVC-ACAD and the Dean of Students have emphasised that in changing the regulations, the University is in no way looking to increase the number of disciplinary cases but is seeking to clarify and update in the light of experience.

A working group comprising the following SU and UEA members met to discuss proposed changes on 29 October 2013 and 21 January 2014.

## General Regulations Working Group

Neil Ward (PVC-ACAD)  
Annie Grant (Dean of Students)  
David Thurkettle (DoS)  
Rosie Rawle (Communications Officer),  
Louise Withers Green (Academic Officer)  
Jo Spiro (Advice Manager)  
Jim Dickinson (Chief Executive, SU)  
In attendance: Lisa Williams (secretary)

As reported to the last meeting of SEC, this group agreed that in future, changes to General Regulations will be considered by the May Student Experience committee; reporting to June LTC; reporting to June/July Senate. There may be several different working groups feeding into SEC, depending on the nature of the changes to be discussed.

### **Discussion - Proposed Content changes for Sept 2014**

Proposed revisions to the General Regulations are tracked in the attached document.

Noted:

- a) that the General Regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech  
[http://www.uea.ac.uk/calendar/section3/regs\(gen\)/code-of-practice-relating-to-freedom-of-speech/Code+of+Practice+relating+to+Freedom+of+Speech](http://www.uea.ac.uk/calendar/section3/regs(gen)/code-of-practice-relating-to-freedom-of-speech/Code+of+Practice+relating+to+Freedom+of+Speech)
- b) some changes introduced in 2013-14 are protective of students' rights (specifically the addition of "reasonable" preceding the term "request" in paras 10(3) b and c.) SU representatives indicated that they felt the term "reasonable request" in this context was restrictive of rights but PVC-ACAD sought to reassure that the term would be used in a legal sense, as a protection in law. The term "reasonable request" was widely understood and was a protection for students.
- c) on the new addition in 2013-14 in para 1(5)a(ii) on page 2 re: police caution, namely:
  - a. *A student must report immediately to the Dean of Students if at any time during their registration:*
    - i. *s/he has been charged with a criminal offence, or*
    - ii. *s/he has accepted a police caution; or*

the SU outlined their concerns about how the information would be used by the Dean of Students; and that the caution information could be an infringement of student rights. DOS outlined that the information would be used to support students.

Agreed:

- i. to add the new sentence (in italics) to para 1(5):

(5) The University has a duty of care to its students and staff and in order to reduce or manage the risk of harm to individuals as well as the University community as a whole the University needs to be informed of any alleged criminal activity by its students. *If the University judges that no risk is presented, then no further action will be taken (other than the offer of advice/support to students concerned). If the University judges that a risk IS presented the student will be provided with a written explanation for the grounds of this decision*

- ii. that there needed to be an agreed process for informing DOS of cautions. This process would take account of both the risks to the person accepting the caution and to other students; and outline the steps taken to mitigate any identified risks.  
**ACTION: DoS to create and communicate a new process by which students will inform DoS of cautions ahead of September 2014.**

d) on General Conduct para 10(1)f, namely:

- f. results in damage or loss to funds and/or property of the University or its students, staff officers or visitors;*

Agreed to replace “funds” with “monies”, at the request of the Student Union, as it was felt this was more specific.

e) on the new addition in 2013-14 to General Conduct para 10(2)b, namely:

- b. constitutes disorderly conduct causing nuisance or distress*

Agreed to add “serious” in front of “distress”, at the request of the Student Union. Whilst it was noted that distress was a subjective term, as opposed to nuisance which was a legal term, it was felt that serious distress was an acceptable compromise.

Subsequent to the meeting, Prof Ward received a request from Rosie Rawle to include a statement in General Conduct along the lines of "Recognising the nature of the University as a democratic institution...." under 10: General Conduct.

Instead of the proposed wording, Prof Ward indicated that he would consider the inclusion of wording underlining the centrality of open debate and dialogue to the University's mission. A proposed new sentence has been added at the start of para 10(5).

*10(5) The provisions of paragraph 10 of these General Regulations for Students in no way detract from the centrality of open debate and dialogue to the University's mission. Any breach of the University's Code of Practice relating to Freedom of Speech dealing with any or all of the matters referred to in Section 10 (1) (e) above shall be treated as a breach of this General Regulation;*