

LTC13D083

Title: Review of General Regulations 13, 14 and 15
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Issue

To provide an update on progress with the reviews of General Reg 13-15.

Recommendation

LTC Recipients are invited:

1. To receive the author's interim report;
2. To consider the minor changes to General Reg 15 and recommend approval to Senate, for it to be implemented from 2014-15

Resource Implications

None.

Risk Implications

Not applicable.

Equality and Diversity

Not applicable.

Timing of decisions

The Committee to reach a decision re minor changes to General Reg 15, in time for approval by the next Senate so that it could be implemented in 2014-15.

Further Information

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Background

A review of the General Regulations was considered to be timely

Discussion

No substantial changes are being proposed at this stage – discuss further with the next progress report.

Attachments

Review of General Regulation 13 (Attendance, Engagement and Progress), General Regulation 14 (Professional Misconduct and/or Unsuitability) and General Regulation 15 (Conduct of Research)

1. Introduction

In its objectives for 2013-14, the Learning and Teaching Service noted that a review of the following General Regulations was required.

2. General Regulation 13 (Attendance, Engagement and Progress)

A working group of academic and administrative colleagues have met regularly in 2013-14, to consider the management information required to support Attendance Monitoring. Since January 2014, the group has also considered the procedures and the process for monitoring students' absence – this will be considered by the Learning and Teaching Committee in June 2014.

At this stage, it is not anticipated that the wording of General Regulation 13 will be changed as a result of having new procedures to implement the monitoring of students' attendance, but changes could be made to reflect any substantial changes to the procedures and the process.

3. General Regulation 14 (Professional Misconduct and/or Unsuitability)

A working group of academic and administrative colleagues, chaired by Professor Nigel Norris, met in February 2014 and considered the membership, terms of reference and scope of the review. It aimed to align the University's processes more closely with what the professional bodies expect/demand, particularly in Schools where the procedures for General Regulation 14 are tested more regularly (MED and NSC.)

The working group was mindful of the obligation to protect the public, and felt that it would be helpful to have an intermediate stage whereby the School considers a student's ability to meet the professional standards that are required, and that the relevant Fitness to Practice Board/Professionalism Committee at the School should fail/ withdraw students for not meeting professional standards instead of referring them under General Regulation 14. Schools would be consulted about the practicality of having an intermediate stage, as not all Schools currently have Fitness to Practice Boards or the equivalent, but may still wish to refer cases under General Regulation 14.

Members also felt quite strongly that if a student fails to disclose extenuating circumstances that may affect his/her professional practice, the failure to disclose should itself constitute a fitness to practise issue.

The next meeting of the working group will be held in September 2014, where it will aim to define thresholds of when to refer cases under General Regulation 14, and when to make use of other General Regulations (e.g. General Reg 5). Its proposals will be considered by the Taught Programmes Policy Group in November/December 2014, so that proposals could be considered by the Learning and Teaching Committee in December 2014.

4. General Regulation 15 (Conduct of Research)

In her role as Quality and Information Manager, Ms Mel Steele has consulted academic colleagues who use General Regulation 15. It was agreed that only minor changes were needed in terms of correcting spelling in the wording of the Regulation:

15 Conduct of Research

(1) Students conducting research are required to do so with propriety and shall comply with the University Code of Practice Relating to Misconduct in Research, which can be consulted at

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/pgresearch> or <https://www.uea.ac.uk/ren/research-integrity>

Any allegation of misconduct in research against a student will be handled in accordance with Section 5 of the Research Degree Policy Documents which can be found at

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/pgresearch/regsandforms>

Where a student commits misconduct in research the issue may be referred to the Senate Student Disciplinary Committee.

(2) In this context, the term 'misconduct in research' means fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, misrepresentation, impersonation, or other practices that seriously deviate from those that are commonly accepted within the academic and scientific communities for proposing, conducting or reporting research. It specifically encompasses the following:

(a) Piracy - the deliberate exploitation of ideas from others without acknowledgement;

(b) Plagiarism - the copying of ideas, data or text (or various combinations of the three) without permission or acknowledgement;

(c) Fraud - deliberate deception, usually involving the invention of data;

(d) Conducting research in a manner which contravenes the terms of ethical approval granted by the University or by other relevant bodies and accepted by the University as governing the conduct of the research in question;

(e) Conducting research for which the University requires there to be prior ethical approval whilst having failed to secure ~~that~~ those approvals;

(f) Failure to follow accepted procedures or to exercise due care in carrying out responsibilities for avoiding unreasonable risk of harm to humans, animals or the environment.

(g) Mismanagement or inadequate preservation of data and/or primary materials

(h) Misappropriation of data

(i) Improper conduct in peer review

(j) Failure to declare conflicts of interest

(k) Misrepresentation of involvement of authorship

(l) improper dealing with allegations of misconduct

No changes were proposed to either the *University Code of Practice Relating to Misconduct in Research* or *Section 5 of the Research Degree Policy Document*.

Students have not been consulted by the PGR Office as part of this review, primarily because no changes are being proposed and it was not considered that the current procedures unfairly disadvantage students. Had any changes been proposed these would have been discussed at Faculty Graduate School Executives and the PGR Executive, both of which have student representation.

Christina Chan
4 June 2014