

**Title:** *New Process for changes to General Regulations*  
**Author:** Lisa Williams, Assistant Registrar, VCO  
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### **Issue**

An update on the process for making changes to General Regulations

### **Recommendation**

Recipients are invited to note the changes recently agreed by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor Academic.

### **Resource Implications**

n/a

### **Risk Implications**

n/a

### **Equality and Diversity**

n/a

### **Timing of decisions**

With immediate effect

### **Further Information**

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

### **Background**

From time to time, General Regulations have been revised by the Dean of Students in the light of experience. Revised General regulations were put in place for 2013-14.

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

## **Discussion**

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

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)  
In attendance: Lisa Williams (secretary)

## **New Process**

This group has 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.

With respect to changes already made for Sept 2013, it was noted that:

- a) some of the tracked changes related to format changes or clarifications rather than content changes.
- b) 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)
- c) that some changes were protective of students' rights (eg the addition of "reasonable" preceding request in paras 3 b and c.)
- d) areas of concern for the SU where further discussion was required were identified and at the conclusion of the Working Group's discussions, a paper outlining changes for Sept 2014 will be brought to the May meeting of SEC, as per the new process.