

LTC12D132

Title: *Amendments to General Regulations (Discipline)*
Author: C J Sharp (Head of Learning & Teaching Services)
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Issue

- A proposal to insert a minor amendment into the current General Regulations in order that students who are alleged to have breached Regulation 14 (Professional Misconduct and/ or Unsuitability) are afforded additional time in which to review the summons and prepare their case.
- A proposal to insert an additional appendix to the University Disciplinary Procedures. The appendix consists of a flowchart detailing the process for dealing with students who are not bound by Regulation 14, by virtue of being post-qualification Nursing professionals, but about whom concerns have arisen in relation to their professionalism.

Recommendation

That the Learning and Teaching Committee recommend the enclosed amendments to Senate to be effective within the University's General Regulations from the 2013-14 academic year onwards.

Resource Implications

None

Risk Implications

Not applicable

Equality and Diversity

The proposed amendments do not give rise to a new set of expectations with regard to students' conduct, but serve to clarify the appropriate regulatory route for dealing with inappropriate conduct.

Timing of decisions

Recommendation by the Learning and Teaching Committee on 15 May 2013 will allow Senate to endorse the amended regulations to take effect for the 2013-14 academic year.

Further Information

1) Amendment to General Regulations

- There is an increasing incidence of Regulation 14 disciplinary hearings being adjourned due to the student's need for more time to prepare a case.
- The requirement for Regulation 14 hearings to include a relevant professional who is external to the University means that adjournments can result in the hearing being significantly delayed.
- It is proposed that Regulation 5.12 within Section C of the University Disciplinary Procedures be amended to read:

5.12 The summons shall be delivered to the student's University email address and contact address at least:

- i) For Cases being heard in Mode A or Mode B, 5 working days (Saturdays, Sundays and University closure days excepted) before the meeting of the Panel.
- ii) For Cases being heard in Mode C, 20 working days (Saturdays, Sundays and University closure days excepted) before the meeting of the Panel.

2) Insertion of an Appendix to the University Disciplinary Procedures

- NSC students undertaking post-qualification courses are not bound by the requirements of Regulation 14.
- However, where professionalism concerns arise in relation to such students, Schools should be provided with a clearly articulated route through which those concerns can be expressed.
- The proposed process, detailed in the flowchart below, has been agreed with relevant staff in NSC and has the support of the Chair of SSDC.
- The process described by the flow-chart provides a means by which the School may report concerns to the relevant professional body and ensure that the student's position in relation to the University is appropriately managed.
- It is proposed that the flowchart be included as an additional appendix to University Disciplinary Procedures.

Fitness To Practice and Professional Body Reporting - NSC Post-Registration Students

NSC FTP PANEL

Initial FTP Panel is held in accordance with standard NSC FTP procedures
 Panel confirms that report should be made to NMC
 Letter from Chair FTP to Secretary SSDC advising of report to NMC and need for suspension pending guidance from NMC
 Student is reported by Chair FTP to NMC

Letter sent to student by Chair NSC FTP advising student of his/her suspension and that s/he must:
 Advise NSC of the outcome of the Interim Orders Hearing
 Advise his/her employer of suspension and report to NMC

FTP considers case from School perspective
 Will consider any future similar incidents as evidence of 'failure to learn'

FTP advises on implementation of any conditions to practice
 If conditions prevent continuance on course the suspension remains in place
 If conditions allow then suspension may be lifted

FTP considers if the case has any University disciplinary implications other than PMU, which has already been covered by the NMC process

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LTS HUB

Cause for Concern received in Hub

Receives notification of outcome of Interim Orders Hearing:

i) No Case to pursue

record on file
 return student to programme
 matter referred to FTP

ii) Case to pursue but on 'managed risk' basis

record on file

iii) Case to pursue and student poses a risk

record on file
 suspension remains in force

student withdrawn from programme

student suspension continues until NMC restriction lifted.

Subject to any additional disciplinary penalty concession will be sought if needed and if available to allow student's continuation on the course following lifting of suspension

Subject to any disciplinary penalties the student continues on their course

NMC

NMC complete Initial Assessment
 Interim Orders Hearing held within 2-4 Weeks

NMC Formal Hearing:

i) Registration Removed

ii) Registration suspended

iii) No restriction on practice

