

WINTER SUMMARY OF ACADEMIC POLICY DECISIONS 2015-16

This document refers to key decisions made during the 2015-16 academic year at the following meetings:

Senate (S): 28.10.15, 20.1.16

Education Committee (EC): 9/12/15

Academic Quality and Standards Committee (AQSC): 14.10.15, 27.1.16

SharePoint site: <https://sp.essex.ac.uk/sections/academic/senate/default.aspx>

	Category	Name of New or Amended Policy	Summary of change and link to source paper/committee minutes
1	All Ordinances and Regulations	Amendment to all Ordinances and Regulations	<p>All University Ordinances and Regulations need to be amended to reflect the changes to the titles of the Director of Information Systems and the Librarian to the Director of IT Services and University Librarian and Director of Library Services respectively.</p> <p>Senate and Council Senate 28 October 2015 S/15/51 S.M. 197/15</p>
2	Delegated Powers	Schedule of Delegated Powers	<p>The annual schedule of functions and specific powers delegated to Senate's Boards and Committees</p> <p>Senate 28 October 2015 S/15/62, S.M. 226/15</p>
3	Programme Specifications and Student Transcripts	Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR)	<p>Update and implementation of the HEAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. That oversight and general responsibility of the HEAR should be delegated from Senate to Student Experience Committee ii. That all additional activities should be recorded through the Big Essex Award. iii. That the <i>University of Essex HEAR Section 6.1 Activity Protocols</i> be followed when new activities may be added to the HEAR. <p>Senate 28 October 2015 S/15/56 S.M. 219/15</p>

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4	General Regulations	University Compliance Obligations and Academic Progress or Student Status Decisions	<p>A procedure for dealing with conflicts between University compliance with legal responsibilities and academic regulations.</p> <p>The following text will be added to the <i>University Compliance Obligations and Academic Progress or Student Status Decisions</i></p> <p>6.39 If a decision taken in accordance with University student progress or assessment regulations conflicts with the University's legal or compliance obligations then the matter shall be referred to the Registrar who shall decide upon a course of action.</p> <p>6.40 A student may appeal that decision to the Vice-Chancellor, in writing, within five days of the Registrar's decision on the grounds of:</p> <p>(a) substantive factual error; and/or</p> <p>(b) extraordinary circumstances where the student was physically unable to support the University in discharging its compliance obligations.</p> <p>6.41 The Vice-Chancellor will accept or reject the appeal within 10 days and their decision is final; there is no further right of appeal.</p> <p>6.42 Where the Vice-Chancellor is unavailable to review the appeal within the timescale the Deputy Vice-Chancellor or Pro-Vice Chancellor(s) may consider the appeal.</p> <p>Senate 20 January 2016 S/16/12, Appendix B, S.M 48/16</p>
5	Periodic Review	Periodic Review	<p>All courses which fall under the scope of a Periodic Review should be included in the Review, irrespective of how long the course had been running.</p> <p>This applies to both undergraduate and postgraduate Periodic Reviews.</p> <p>AQSC 27 January 2016 AQSC/16/12 AQSC. M. 16/77-16/79</p>
7	Taught Provision	a. Undergraduate Credit Framework	<p>To remove the reference to the International Diploma in the table in paragraph 2.3 of the Credit Framework.</p> <p>Senate 20 January 2016 S/16/12 Annex A S.M. 47/16</p>

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7	Taught Provision	b. Rules of Assessment (Undergraduate)	<p>Variations approved for the International Academy</p> <p>i. Approved variations for the International Year 1 from 2016/17</p> <p>Senate 20 January 2016 S/16/12 Annex A S.M. 47/16</p>
		c. Undergraduate Entry Requirements	<p>Amendments to entry requirements for the following European countries</p> <p>i. <i>Czech Republic</i> – to lower the entry requirements for applicants studying the Czech Maturitni Zkouska/Maturita</p> <p>ii. <i>Bulgaria</i> – to lower the entry requirements for applicants studying the Bulgarian Diploma za Zavaresheno Obrazovanie</p> <p>iii. <i>Poland</i> – to lower the entry requirements for applicants studying the Polish Matura</p> <p>iv. <i>Belgium</i> – to lower the entry requirements for applicants studying the Belgium Certificat d’Enseignement Secondaire Superieur (CESS).</p> <p>In all cases, to lower the A Level and GCSE subject equivalencies in line with this.</p> <p>Education Committee 9 December 2015 EC. M 250-257/15</p> <p><i>Czech Republic</i> EC/15/92 <i>Bulgaria</i> – EC/15/93 <i>Poland</i> – EC/15/94 <i>Belgium</i> – EC/15/95</p>
		d. Rules of Assessment (Postgraduate)	<p>Introduction of a non-registerable exit award in Health and Human Sciences</p> <p>An exit award of MSc Health Studies to be introduced for students on the MSc Adult Nursing (pre-registration) and the MSc Nursing (Mental Health) (pre-registration) from 2015/16.</p> <p>Senate 20 January 2016 S/16/12 Annex B, S.M. 47/16</p>

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8	All provision	Guidelines for Ethical Approval of Research Involving Human Participants	<p>The Guidelines and the ethics review process have been amended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To reflect current best practice ii. To provide clearer information about expectations with regard to protection of participants and their rights and informed consent. <p>Senate 28 October 2015, S/15/58, S.M. 221/15</p>

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