

UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN

QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

STUDENTS' PROGRESS COMMITTEE (SPC)

MINUTE OF MEETING

THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2026 AT 3:05PM

Present: Michelle Pinard, Nathaniel Greene, Thanga Thevar, Tamas Gyorfi, Alexey Sevastyanov, Alyson Whyte, Steven Rae, Liam Dyker and Kyra Lamont (Clerk) in attendance.

Apologies: Steve Tucker, Ilona Cairns, Colin Lumsden, Dean Robson and Emma Tough.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

(Copy filed as SPC/290126/001)

- 1.1** The minute of the previous meeting held on 22 April 2025 was approved without amendment.

MATTERS ARISING AND ACTION LOG

(Copy filed as SPC/290126/002)

- 2.1** Members were provided with an update on the outstanding items – noting that SPC data will be provided to QAC and UEC in February - and that item 5.2 was completed.

ACTIONS: CLERK/ST

STUDENTS' PROGRESS COMMITTEE REMIT AND COMPOSITIONS

3.1

(Copy filed as SPC/290126/003a)

- (i)** The Group approved the changes to the SPC Remit and Composition document without amendment. Members welcomed Nathaniel Greene as the new SPC Convenor for Divinity and noted that Tamas Gyorfi will be replaced by Ilona Cairns as the new SPC Convenor for Law.

(Copy filed as SPC/290126/003b)

- (ii)** Members noted the Medicine and Dentistry SPC Remit and Composition for their information.

REFLECTIONS ON SUMMER PROGRESS 2025 (DEBRIEF)

4.1

- (i)** Members discussed the effectiveness of bringing the hard deadline forward to the beginning of welcome week (15th September 2025 at 9am). It was felt that this practice should remain in place for the next cycle because it allows enough time for the consideration of late appeals and ensures that applicants are not further disadvantaged by having to catch-up on missed lectures.
- (ii)** Members discussed the effectiveness of having a soft deadline for academic discounting one week in advance of published SPC application deadline (22nd August 2025). It was felt that this practice should remain in place for the next cycle as it encourages students to engage with ROs to discuss their options in a more timely manner and avoid late SPC applications.

(Copy filed as SPC/290126/004a)

(iii) Members discussed the data from the 24-25 Summer progress activity and noted the following:

- SPC applications were not upheld for the majority of applicants with a credit shortfall/missing prerequisites (64.5%)
- The majority of applicants were from Level 2 (43%)
- There were no successful appeals suggesting that procedures were followed appropriately
- The majority of applicants that were progressed had less than 15 credit shortfall (as expected)
- The number of applicants who were not progressed with shortfalls of 1-15 credits appears to be higher than those with 16-30 credits so may require further monitoring/investigation.

(Copy filed as SPC/290126/004b)

(iv) Members discussed the year-on-year comparison of SPC application data to ascertain any trends and noted the following:

- The number of progressed and not progressed applicants has stayed relatively consistent. However, the total number of SPC applications has reduced by a third since 22-23 – this may be due, in part, to the lack of AFG data.
- AFG data for 24/25 is not currently available as, following the postponement of exams, colleagues in Qatar administered the process independently.
- 21/22 data is likely inflated due to challenges associated with COVID-19 pandemic and should be treated as an outlier.

(Copy filed as SPC/290126/004c)

(v) Members discussed the data on student outcomes following 23-24 Summer progression activity:

- 50% of SPC applicants were back on track the following year
- 21% of SPC applicants were progressed with a shortfall that did not require SPC approval*
- 4% of applicants were progressed with a shortfall that did require SPC approval
- Only one applicant (4%) had to repeat the year and only four applicants (7%) returned to SPC and were not progressed, suggesting that the decisions made in 23-24 were appropriate.

**i.e., applicants did not lack prescribed courses, prerequisites, and had enough credits to progress according to internal regulations*

CHANGES TO GENERAL REGULATIONS

(Oral Item)

- 5.1** Members were reminded of the recent amendment to General Regulation 16.1 (a)-(c), stating that the Senatus Academicus will normally only permit candidates to progress in instances where they have no more than one additional course outstanding, valued at either 15 or 30 credit points. Members were advised that this has now entered into force and will be applicable to the Summer 2026 progression exercise.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 6.1** The next meeting of the SPC will be in April 2026 (date/time confirmed in due course) via Microsoft Teams.

Any member of the Committee wishing an item for routine approval or for information to be brought forward for discussion may ask at the meeting for that to be done. Any such item will be taken after item 1.

Declaration of interests: Any member and individual in attendance (including Officers) who has a clear interest in a matter on the agenda should declare that interest at the relevant meeting, whether or not that interest is already recorded in the Registry of Member's interests.