

UNIVERSITY OF ABEREEN
POSTGRADUATE COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING 26 MARCH 2012

Present: Dr B. Connolly (Convenor), Ms J. Batty, Mr P. Fantom, Dr M. Pinard, Ms A. Slater, Dr R. Wells, and with Mrs K. Allan, Ms C. Croydon, Ms R. Dumbell, Mr Z. Hickman, Ms C. Macdonald, Mr T. Majchrowski, Ms R. Sandison, Mrs K. Slessor, Ms K. Strangward, and Mr R. Findlay (Clerk) and Ms T. Szucs in attendance.

Apologies: Prof. P. Hannaford, Prof. B. Naphy, Dr E. Pavlovskaia

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE ON PHD JOURNEY

28. The Committee noted a presentation by PhD students on a student-led conference on the PhD journey. The Committee agreed to support the conference plan.

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LEARNING TO WORK / MAKING THE MOST OF MASTERS UPDATE

29. The Committee noted an update on the Learning to Work / Making the Most of Masters project. The Committee highlighted concerns in relation to students on a Tier 4 visa taking part in paid work placements off-campus, and requested that further discussions be held with an update brought to the next meeting.

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ACTION: KSTRANGWARD

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING ON 15 DECEMBER 2011

30. The Committee approved the minutes of the meeting on 15 December 2011.

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MATTERS ARISING

Minute 17.3

31. The Committee noted that the Colleges had agreed that the issue of a standard system of referencing should be explored further and requested that the matter be referred to the UCTL to take forward.

ACTION: CLERK

SNAPSHOT 3 – REGISTRATIONS FOR 2011/12

32. The Committee noted figures regarding the number of new postgraduate entrants registered during the 2011/12 academic year, up until 29 February 2012.

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ADMISSION FIGURES FOR ENTRY BETWEEN AUGUST AND DECEMBER 2012

33. The Committee noted the admission figures for taught and research postgraduate programmes starting between 1 August and 30 December 2012.

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UPDATE ON PSAS FUNDING FOR 2012/2013

- 34.1. The Committee noted that from 2012/13 the current Postgraduate Student Allowances Scheme (PSAS) was to be replaced with a repayable student loan model, the Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan (PTFL).

- 34.2. The Committee agreed that student awareness of the new student loan model needed to be raised through the SRAS website and within the Colleges.

UPDATE FROM SRAS

35. The Committee noted an update from SRAS on ongoing postgraduate recruitment activities.

ALUMNI DISCOUNT

- 36.1. The Committee discussed a proposal from Dr Bernadette Connolly to modify the current alumni discount scheme to offering a ten percent discount for each year of a student's programme.
- 36.2. The Committee agreed that the proposal would need to be discussed at College level in the first instance, with the issue to be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

ACTION: HOGS

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT

37. The Committee noted that the item would be deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

COLLABORATIVE PROVISIONS

- 38.1. The Committee noted that the adoption of 'Process 2' had been suggested, and that the item was currently being considered by the University Committee on Teaching and Learning.
- 38.2. The Committee discussed proposals to amend the process regarding the establishment of collaborative provisions, and recommended that 'Process 2' be adopted.

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PHD BY PUBLICATION

- 39.1. The Committee discussed a paper on PhD by publication, proposed by the School of Education. This proposal was different from current practice where PhD theses could include papers published during the candidate's registration, and was aimed at candidates, primarily Aberdeen alumni and staff members, not undertaking supervised research.

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- 39.2. The Committee noted the Glasgow and Edinburgh models where those with an industry research career can publish a PhD by papers. The current Aberdeen PhD route did not allow for research conducted before registration to be included in a thesis.
- 39.3. The Committee agreed that only those staff and graduates who have been active researchers for at least 5 years should be eligible, and that only papers published within the last 5 years could be included. The Committee also agreed candidates should be registered for a period of up to 12 months and be subject to normal monitoring procedures.
- 39.4. The Committee recommended that candidates should be required to submit a case for the approval of the Head of School, Head of College and Postgraduate College Officer.
- 39.5. The Committee requested that a proposal be circulated at the next meeting of the Committee.

ACTION: CLERK

PHD DELIVERED AT A DISTANCE

40. The College of Arts and Social Sciences raised the issue of PhDs delivered at a distance. The Committee requested that a paper be circulated at the next meeting of the Committee.

RE-ADMISSION FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS

41. The Committee discussed and approved the re-admission policy for postgraduate taught students.
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CODES OF PRACTICE FOR TAUGHT AND RESEARCH STUDENTS

42. The Committee approved the Code of Practice for taught and research students for 2012/13.
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TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

43. The Committee noted the set of Graduate Attributes for taught postgraduate students, proposed by the working group of the University Committee on Teaching and Learning.
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REVISED PGT GRADE SPECTRUM FOR 2012/13

44. The Committee noted the changes made to the Grade Spectrum for 2012/13, including the recent changes approved via email circulation.
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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

43. The Committee noted that the date of the meeting was Tuesday 19 June 2012, 2.30pm in the Court Room, University Office.