EXTRACT FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES: 14.3.18

18.38 Prerequisites (Item 2)

The Committee noted that a prerequisite module was defined as one which must be studied, but not necessarily passed for progression to another. Currently, in pre-final years of Honours degree, Integrated Master’s degree, Foundation degree, Associate Bachelor’s degree and Access Diplomas, course teams were permitted to identify in course regulations particular prerequisite modules, which *must be passed* in order for a student to be allowed to progress to the next year. For courses in which such modules are identified, if the pass standard is not achieved by the resit attempt in August, the failed student is not allowed to proceed carrying that failure.

The Chair reported that the Learning and Teaching Committee had supported a proposal that failure in a prerequisite module should not stop progression and carrying of failure, subject to the current limit of 20 credit points and any PSRB requirement.

The Committee was, therefore asked to consider a proposal that within the University’s regulatory framework the concept of ‘prerequisite’ be retained but that the pass standard for progression only be specified in course regulations where a PSRB explicitly required it. If approved, Faculties would need to review course regulations to remove clauses which specify a prerequisite requirement, unless this was a PSRB requirement. (This review would also apply to courses in partner institutions.)

It was noted that regulation templates would be updated and Faculties should also revisit any module descriptions which specify prerequisites (which must be studied) and consider whether this information should be retained. CA3 forms should be processed accordingly.

Dr Keenan suggested that the specification of successful completion of a prerequisite module should be retained even if a PSRB did not require it in regard to students seeking to study a particular pathway or option in the following year.

AGREED that:

1. the proposal to revise the prerequisite rule be approved;
2. Faculties and partner institutions review course regulations to remove reference to prerequisite modules which must be passed as a condition of progression to the next year of study, unless this was a PSRB requirement, and process course revision forms where appropriate.