EXTRACT FROM TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE MINUTES: 28.3.12

12.10 Report on QAA UK Quality Code, Chapter B7 External Examining (Min 11.141)

Senate, at its meeting on 25 January 2012, had endorsed the Committee’s recommendation to remove the authority of the external examiner to prevail where there was disagreement in board of examiners about results or classifications, in order to reflect the consensus basis of decision-making in the board. As a consequence there was now a need to establish a protocol in the unlikely event that an external examiner was unwilling to endorse decisions. It was proposed that, should an external disagree with the Board’s decisions, this should be made explicit in the Board’s report to Senate when recommendations for award were considered. The Chair of the Board and the external examiner would be asked to forward reports to Senate for consideration. Senate would make a decision which might require the appointment of a new external examiner to moderate assessments. In this case, results would remain provisional and students would need to be kept informed of any delay in the normal timeframe for publication of results.

AGREED that:

i) the protocol outlined above for dealing with disagreement at Boards of Examiners be endorsed;