EXTRACT FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES:

**17 June 2019**

19.35 External Moderation of Assessments

Professor Bartholomew reported that Learning and Teaching Committee in May and his meetings with Associated Deans (Education) had discussed the current requirement that external examiners should moderate *all work assessed as first class or distinction,* as set out in University’s Code of Practice on External Examining. As first class awards were now common, Associate Deans (Education) proposed that a moderation sample would be sufficient.

Professor Bartholomew reported his broad agreement with this view but reminded members of the current context of interest in ‘grade inflation’ and the UUK’s recent Statement of Intent on this topic. He emphasised that if sample moderation of firsts were adopted, the importance of sampling of cases near the classification boundaries (borderline) should be strengthened. As part of the annual accountability report to Council and DfENI, he would report on such development to support confidence in the University’s processes to assure academic standards.

AGREED that:

1. sampling of first class or distinction work be permitted;
2. the requirement to see the work assessed internally as failed be retained;
3. sampling of the work of borderline candidates be required;
4. Associated Deans (Education) be consulted to agree the revised wording of the relevant clause in the Code of Practice.

[Secretary’s note: the clause has been revised as follows.

*Where it is agreed that the external examiner should see a selection of the scripts and coursework, the principles for such a selection are agreed in advance; external examiners are given enough evidence to determine that internal marking and classifications are of an appropriate standard and are consistent; external examiners should see a sample from the top, the middle and the bottom of the range.* ***They ~~should~~ must sample the work of candidates at classification boundaries. They should also see all work assessed internally ~~as first class or distinction or~~ as failed.***]