EXTRACT FROM ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

**13 March 2019**

19.18 REVISION OF REGULATIONS FOR THE CLASSIFICATION OF INTEGRATED MASTER’S COURSES

The Committee considered a paper regarding the introduction of third class Honours for the Integrated Master’s degree award (Paper No ASQEC/19/4).

It was noted that, when Honours classification was adopted for Integrated Master’s degrees in 2012, a third class band was not needed as the then University policy in favour of exit velocity meant that Level 7 only was considered with a pass threshold of 50% applied at this Level. The Faculty of Life and Health Sciences proposed Level 5 and 6 contributions for MPharm Hons in 2015, but its paper did not mention a third class in the formal recommendation, and so it was not formally included in award regulations. The Faculty had identified the possibility that a weak student could pass Level 7 (where the pass mark was 50%) and yet have an overall average between 40 and 49% because of performance in Levels 5 and/or 6 (where the pass mark in modules was 40%). It was noted that this scenario was unlikely to arise in other Integrated Master’s courses as they maintained higher thresholds (50 or 60%) for progression and transfer from Bachelor’s stages to the related Integrated Master’s. This structure was not used in the MPharm Hons where a Bachelor’s degree was only available as an exit award.

The paper advised of two options: either to introduce a third class band or to require a progression threshold to obviate the need.

AGREED:that it be recommended to Senate that Regulation 27 of the Regulations for Integrated Master’s degrees be amended to add a third-class Honours band:

Class III – at least 40% and less than 50%

EXTRACT FROM TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE

**27 March 2013**

13.4 Classification of Integrated Master’s Degrees (Min 12.149)

The Chair reported that Senate, at its January meeting, had approved the revision to the regulation for the classification of integrated Master’s degrees to grade the overall result with Honours divisions. This would be effective from 2012/13 for all cohorts in the MPharm and from 2013 intake in other courses, unless students consented to an earlier change.

The Committee noted that for the MEng, MSci, MBiomedSci the three affected Faculties were in the process of consulting with course committees, external examiners and current students regarding the timing of the implementation of the change. The Chair reported that the new scheme would not be imposed on current students. It was noted that Faculties should introduce the change with full consent of each year group, and that individual student choice in a particular year group was not permitted. CA3 forms should be processed to make the change in respect of current cohorts.

**11 December 2012**

12.149 Master of Pharmacy

Professor McMullan presented a proposal to adopt undergraduate Honours degree classification bands, instead of the current postgraduate bands, for the overall grading of the MPharm degree, a four year Integrated Master’s degree (Paper No TLC/12/41c).

The Committee noted that the proposal had implications for the University’s other Integrated Master’s degrees – MBiomedSci, MEng, MSci - as the University would wish to ensure consistent practice in the regulations for these awards. The Deans of Art, Design and the Built Environment and Computing and Engineering reported that their Faculties would wish to adopt the Honours degree classification system[[1]](#footnote-1).

AGREED that:

1. it be recommended to Senate that the regulation for the classification of integrated Master’s degrees be revised to grade the overall result in the following Honours divisions:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Class I  Class II (division i) (IIi)  Class II (division ii) (IIii) | At least 70%  At least 60%  At least 50% |

and subject to Senate approval:

1. the change be applied from 2012/13 for all cohorts in the MPharm;
2. the Faculties of Art, Design and the Built Environment (for MEng and MSci), Computing and Engineering (MEng) and Life and Health Sciences (MBiomedSci) consult their course committees and current students and report to the next meeting on the proposed timing of the implementation of the revision in other integrated Master’s degrees.

1. Academic Office Note: It was reported at the meeting that it was not the convention to award the MPharm with Honours. UCAS currently lists all MPharms as ‘Hon’ and some online prospectus entries use the ‘Hons’ suffix (eg Brighton). A search of award regulations suggests Honours is applied to other Integrated Master’s. Pass marks in final year vary – either 40 or 50% which, for those where a classification system is used, determines the availability of the third class. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)