

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ASSESSMENT

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 3rd December 2021 at 2.00pm via Zoom online video conferencing due to Covid-19 lockdown.

Attendance and apologies for absence:

Present:	Dr Patrick Gallimore	York Law School (Chair)
	Dr Daniel Baker	Psychology
	Dr Katherine Selby	Natural Sciences/Environment and Geography
	Dr Nicoletta Ascianto	English
	Matt Johnstone	YUSU
	Ekansh Kapoor	GSA
	Prof. Kate Arnold	Dean of York Graduate Research School
	Eddie Cowling	International Pathway College

In attendance:

Zara Burford	Representing Online Programmes
Dr Jen Wotherspoon	Deputy Director SAAA
Dr Stephen Gow (Secretary)	Academic Integrity Coordinator
Charlotte Chamberlain (Mins)	Academic Support Coordinator
Cecilia Lowe	Head of Learning Enhancement
Dr Martin Cockett	Chair of Special Cases Committee
Robert Simpson	Special Cases Manager

Apologies:	Laila Fish	Disability Services
	Dr Kevin Caraher	SPSW
	Dr Jim Buller	Politics
	Dr Alet Roux	Mathematics

21-22/19 Welcome

Apologies were received and Patrick Gallimore **noted** that he was confirmed as chair, with Daniel Baker confirmed as Deputy Chair.

21-22/20 Minutes of previous meeting

The Committee **approved** the minutes of the meeting held on 29th October 2021.

21-22/21 Matters Arising from the previous minutes

- **21-2/9 ECA Policy**

It was reported that an E:vision task was being built. At present, this does not prevent retrospective certification. To prevent this, departments are being asked for cut-off dates.

It was noted that both google form and the SITS task may need to run concurrently for a short period of time.

- **21-2/14 SCA membership**

Daniel Baker has been confirmed as Deputy Chair

21-22/24 Chair's Oral Report

The Chair **reported** that Daniel Baker had been appointed to the role of Deputy Chair.

21-2/25 Report from Students

The GSA representative reported that:

- The GSA were monitoring the impact of industrial action
- A forum had been held for course representatives to assess where support was needed, industrial action had been felt and to disseminate information
- Student feedback on the ECA policy has so far been positive

The YUSU representative reported that :

- Industrial action was requiring some response. YUSU staff and officers had been out to visit picket lines
- Study Smart week preparations had been completed, with a set of communications, newsletters and webpages ready to go.
- YUSU had received complaints from academic staff that the new ECA policy allows students to 'play the system'. It was noted that comms on appropriate use will be required.

21-2/26 Undergraduate Degree Outcome Report

The committee **considered** a report presented by Karen Payne (BIU). It was noted that there had been a slight rise in Good Degrees, placing York roughly in the Median of the Russell group. It was also noted that these figures will have been significantly affected by the variations of safety nets implemented in academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21.

Committee members noted that the low number of black students at the University allows for individuals to potentially skew data, and that an socio-economic / ethnicity analysis was required, as these factors are often inter-linked. It was noted that York had recently received a large amount of OfS funding for PGR BAME work, and that these statistics show a significant narrowing of the pipeline to Postgraduate study.

It was also noted that English as a second language should be analysed, as a separate group to UGO.

ACTION: This report to be considered by the Inclusive Learning team in an SCA working group, to assess if assessment styles beget differing outcome statistics.

ACTION : BIU to bring data to SCA showing the breakdown by assessment type. (KP)

ACTION: BIU to bring a breakdown of data combining LPN and Ethnicity. (KP)

ACTION: The student expert panel to be consulted about barriers to success

ACTION To clarify the role, position, composition and reporting structure for the new working group. (SG/ AR)

21-2/27 IPC Academic Misconduct

The committee **considered** and **approved** a report presented by Eddie Cowling of the IPC.

It was reported that the new process had significantly improved the practical running of Academic Misconduct cases. Student reps confirmed that neither Union advice service had flagged any issues with the use of this process. It was noted that this would need to be monitored, alongside other data.

The committee approved the use of the new process going forward, with the note that the IPC was to be seen as a faculty, not a department. This option would not be available to any other department.

ACTION: Method required to cross check information from appeals, IPC and Student Union advice Services'. (SG/RS)

21-2/28: Parameters for Sign off for PGR Examinations

The committee **considered** and **approved** a proposal from PGRA to retain a number of delegated powers which had been in use under Covid Measures.

It was noted that these were administrative powers and that SCA would retain oversight of all academic decisions. The committee noted that as these were usually procedural, SCA signers do not refuse them within the set parameters. The GSA noted no concerns and expressed a preference for the most efficient administration of PGR matters.

The proposal was approved.

21-2/29: Webpage Proposal for the Guide to Assessment

The committee **considered** options for the presentation of the Guide to Assessment on webpages.

Committee members noted the requirements for an easy search function and the need for easy access to historic versions of policy for appeals staff. It was also noted that a Google

docs solution would cause issues with students living in China, and pdf documents require additional accessibility checks.

21-2/30: Degree Outcomes Statement

The committee **considered** the degree outcome statement.

It was noted that the 19/20 safety net had a considerable impact. It was also noted that the red dotted line on the graph was not helpful, and it was **decided** this should be removed.

With the removal of this line, the statement was **approved** for forwarding to UTC.

21-2/31: Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was noted as Friday 28 January 2022 at 2pm via Zoom online video conferencing.