Standing Committee on Assessment

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 18th September 2026 at 09:30am in LFA/204X and via Zoom online video conferencing.

Attendance and apologies for absence:

Members:

Prof. Jill Webb	APVC: Education & Students/SBS (Social Sciences) (Chair)
Dr Alet Roux	Maths (Sciences) (Deputy Chair)
Dr Nigel Lowe	Chemistry (Sciences)
Dr Oleg Lisagor	Computer Science (Sciences)
Dr Jeremy Airey	Education (Social Sciences)
Prof. Ruth Penfold-Mounce	Sociology (Social Sciences)
Dr Peter Schauer	Archaeology (Arts & Humanities)
Tonya Yakimova	York SU, Student representative
Prof. David Barrett	Associate Dean (Education & Students) in the Faculty of Sciences.

In attendance :	Dr Adrian Lee	Policy Manager, Academic Quality
	Aimée Yeoman	SCA Secretary & Policy Officer
	Tom Richens	Deputy Head of Student Administration
	Dr Zara Burford	Online Learning Assessment Manager
	Richard Andrew	YorkSU, Advice & Support Manager
	Jess Penn	Deputy Head of Inclusive Education
	Diane Atkinson	Student Services Manager, School for Business & Society
	Claire Wilkinson	Disability Services Manager
	Sarah Finch	Head of Faculty Operations - History, History of Art, Archaeology & Centre for Medieval Studies

Apologies:

Dr Daniel Morgan	Philosophy (Arts & Humanities)
Dr Tara Alberts	History (Arts & Humanities)
Aya Haidar	YorkSU, Academic Officer
Dr Mathilde Péron	Economics (Social Sciences)
Prof. Paul Wakeling	Dean of YGRS
Dr Juliet James	YGRS
Jan Ball-Smith	Head of Student Success
Assoc. Prof. Anna Sotiriadou	Deputy Vice-President for Teaching, Learning and Students, CITY
Fiona MacDonald	Special Cases Manager

Standing Committee on Assessment

m26-27/1 Welcome and apologies for absence
Committee members, and those in attendance, were welcomed and apologies noted.

New committee members, Dr Oleg Lisagor, Dr Tara Alberts, Dr Peter Schauer, Prof. David Barrett were welcomed to the committee.

The Chair thanked Tonya Yakimova for stepping in as a temporary student representative to ensure that the committee was quorate.

m26-27/2 Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Friday 26th June 2026 were confirmed as correct.

m25-26/3 Matters arising from the previous minutes
Members noted items listed on the Matters arising log

CLOSED

m25-26/80 Report from Students - SCA Chair to discuss the pause in processing academic misconduct cases further with senior colleagues.

Completed, the previous SCA Chair has discussed this with Tom Banham.

m25-26/82 Establishing a new reasonable adjustments review process and escalation panel - CW to speak with TR and Luisa Nanovo regarding Student Administration representation on this panel.

Completed.

m25-26/83 Amendment to Eligibility Policy for Undertaking Study Abroad - SCA Chair and AL to lead on discussions with the Global Opportunities team about support for students coming back from study abroad (to mirror the Placement Team's work with those students returning from a year in industry).

Completed, SCA Chair to inform the Global Opportunities team.

ONGOING

m25-26/79 Chair's Report - SCA Chair to discuss how the following would work for York Online further with ZB: students who fail a module solely due to a lateness penalty will automatically receive a capped resit mark. They will not be required to take a resit in the August resit period unless they need to do so for compensation purposes. This will apply to all courses (except York Online for now).

Ongoing, agreed an exemption for the academic year 2025/6. Discussion regarding whether a

version of this rule should be implemented for York Online in 2026/7 is outstanding. ZB is to contact the SCA Chair to discuss this further.

m25-26/82 Establishing a new reasonable adjustments review process and escalation panel - CW & JJ to discuss PGR provision in this process further outside of the meeting

Ongoing, 14/09: Meeting held with JJ on 27/07. Draft guidance shared with JJ on 11/09. Awaiting feedback from UEC before updating PGR RA policy.

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m25-26/4 Chair's Report
SCA **considered** the Chair's report.

- The Chair thanked Alet Roux who has agreed to act as Deputy Chair of SCA again for a further year.
- The Committee noted that training/induction sessions for StAMP members and External Examiners, alongside a Chair of Board of Examiners Forum are being held in early October.
- The Chair presented a slide deck outlining institutional performance and context regarding Assessment and Feedback (A&F).
- The Chair outlined the Assessment Principles and Feedback Principles that should guide SCA policy development. SCA agreed that its business must be conducted with a focus on this broader context and the application of these principles.
- The Chair expressed an interest in speaking with members individually to gather feedback on policy changes, A&F improvements, and committee operations.
- The Committee reviewed data on the percentage of 'good degrees' at UoY, noting that UoY sits at the lower end within the Russell Group for the percentage of 'good degrees'. The Committee discussed that whilst the degree algorithm cannot be altered, other alternative policy interventions can be considered to improve the current percentage.
- The Committee noted that significant awarding gaps persist across socioeconomic backgrounds and ethnicity alongside noting that analysis shows that outcome gaps cannot be explained by entry tariff variations. The Committee noted that all departments had identified actions to address these disparities as part of EQEC action planning and that further work is ongoing at the institutional and departmental level to better understand the underlying drivers.
- The Committee noted the NSS 2026 results, discussing that marking criteria and feedback questions were persistently low scoring areas for UoY. The Committee discussed whether low scores in these areas could be attributed to the Covid period, however the SCA Chair noted institutional performance in these areas has historically been weak.

m25-26/5 Report from Students
York SU **noted** that:

- A primary focus across YorkSU is demonstrating the impact of the Students' Union, noting that a showcase event was held last week to highlight their work across the broader University.
- The Committee noted that YorkSU is developing a proposal to make the academic representation system more equitable. SCA members interested in further details are

invited to engage in off-line discussions with YorkSU.

- The Committee noted that YorkSU is collaborating directly with departments receiving low NSS scores to tailor support for their local academic reps.
- The Committee noted that YorkSU had received student feedback regarding the media's coverage of changes in Turnitin's terms of service, specifically concerning the use of student work to train AI Large Language Models. This matter has been raised with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students.
- The Committee noted concerns regarding ongoing issues with enrolment and timetabling, alongside student dissatisfaction regarding low contact hours on certain courses.

ACTION: RA to follow up to gather further details so that this can be escalated to UEC.

- The Committee noted that the YorkSU Advice Service recorded a 15% increase in overall caseload from the previous year, supporting 959 students over the 25-26 academic year. The majority of queries related to non-academic University matters, but the Committee noted that 273 cases related to appeals advice (though not all formalise into submitted appeals) and cases involving academic misconduct increased by 51% compared to the previous year. This rise may reflect clearer communication that YorkSU Advice is available to support students through these processes.
- The Committee noted feedback from YorkSU that there have been a number of instances of academic supervisors giving students misleading advice following BoE decisions, specifically regarding turnaround timelines and promises about 'Progression at Risk', the latter of which creates significant friction and a knock-on workload for other central student support services.

ACTION: SCA Secretary to meet with YorkSU to discuss these issues and incorporate guidance into an upcoming start of year briefing to CBoEs.

- The Committee discussed implementing an annual communications cycle from SCA to issue timely policy reminders to academics (e.g., clarifying that Progression at Risk is not permitted during the end of academic year period).
- The Committee discussed that updated supervisor training is urgently needed to address this and further discussed support opportunities for staff when they are unsure how to answer a student query, including potential AI tools (e.g., Gemini chatbot), direct queries to trained professional service staff or YorkSU Advice Service. The Committee highlighted SBS' model as good practice, where they offer drop-in Zoom sessions with trained PSS for supervisors.
- The Committee discussed the need to better promote and streamline informal resolutions within departments.

m25-26/6 SCA Terms of Reference and Confirmation of New Members 26-27

The Committee **considered** and **approved** the ToRs and membership.

- The Committee noted that four new academic members have joined SCA and noted that student representative appointments remain to be confirmed.

- The Committee noted that in line with requests from University Governance, a reference to Freedom of Speech considerations has been incorporated under Point 13.
- The Committee noted that references to 'CITY College' will be updated to 'University of York Europe Campus' and the membership title 'Student Support Manager' will be corrected to 'Student Services Manager'.

m25-26/7 Schedule for SCA Annual Cycle of Business 26-27
The Committee **considered** and **approved** the SCA Annual Cycle of Business.

m25-26/8 SCA Draft Priorities for 26-27 (Oral Update)
The Committee **considered** the proposed SCA Priorities:

- The Committee noted the SCA draft priorities for the 26-27 academic year, which were presented to the committee for information before being sent to UEC for endorsement before returning to SCA for final approval.
- The SCA Chair presented the following draft priorities, highlighting that these require cross-stakeholder involvement and SCA oversight:

- The work areas which SCA will lead on are as follows:

SCA priority work areas	Rationale	Implementation
Evaluation of the introduction of a c**ondonement policy**.	Alignment with sector practice	SCA Chair
Evaluation of the introduction of **Fail Repeat for year 2**.	Alignment with sector practice	SCA Chair
Improving the clarity of the **Exceptional Circumstances Policy**	Feedback from OIA and staff Improving clarity for staff and students	Short-life task and finish group including representatives from Academic Quality & Development, SCA, Student Success.
Development of policy, procedure and guidance to meet regulatory requirements to assess **Technical Proficiency in English Language**	Regulatory requirement	Working Group will be re-formed to oversee the work and work around criteria will be included within the remit of the marking criteria working group
Review of **lateness penalties**	Alignment with the sector Good degrees and gaps	SCA Chair in partnership with Academic Quality & Development

Potential strengthening of internal moderation policy to include review of feedback given to the student (where relevant)	Improvement of feedback for students. NSS: student experience and also potential impact on outcomes	SCA Chair in partnership with Academic Quality & Development

- The following assessment and feedback-related work is taking place or planned across the institution in 2026/27. SCA's remit in relation to this work is as follows:
    - SCA members will be asked to join working groups to contribute to this broader work
    - Some of this work may require the development of assessment and feedback policy or procedure. SCA will lead the associated policy- or procedure development.

Area of work	**Group or area leading the work**
Marking criteria	Marking criteria working group
Addressing student concerns relating to formative assessment	Work not yet started
Improvement of assessment feedback	Work not yet started
Developing an approach to AI as it relates to assessment design	Chair of AI Working Group and Chair of SCA
Development of policy, procedure and guidance to meet regulatory requirements relating to Competence Standards	2026/27 Work not yet started

- The Committee noted their ongoing commitment to improving marking criteria, feedback quality/usefulness, and formative assessment practices.

m25-26/9 Self-certification and Short-duration Coursework
The Committee **noted:**

- The Committee discussed the proposed sliding scale model for self-certification durations for short duration coursework, noting that the proposal applies strictly to self-certification requests. It explicitly excludes SSP claims, urgent cases, and other non-standard exceptional circumstances.
- The Committee noted that the current SITS infrastructure records assignment submission dates but lacks individual assessment issue dates. As coursework is categorised generically as 'CSWK', calculating current coursework duration for proportionate extensions is not currently feasible.
- The Committee noted that implementation would create significant administrative and academic burdens across departments.
- The Committee noted that the added layer of operational complexity poses risks for

students who struggle with information processing. If introduced in the future, the Committee noted that clear advance guidance would be important so students understand they are receiving a reduced/proportionate self-certification period and can therefore choose to submit a full Exceptional Circumstances claim with evidence instead.

- The Committee noted that whilst the core principle of a sliding scale is proportionate, technical and administrative barriers mean implementation would be logistically difficult at present.
- The Committee discussed that the Exceptional Circumstances policy for the 26/27 Academic Year will be published as planned without the inclusion of this sliding scale proposal, which will also not be sent to UEC for consideration.

ACTION: SCA Chair & SK to re-evaluate the sliding scale proposal and consider potential future approaches.

m25-26/10 Any Other Business

N/A

CATEGORY II
m25-26/11 Date of the next meeting

The date of the next meeting was **noted** as Friday 16th October 2026 at 09:30am via Zoom online video conferencing, and in person in YH/001b.

RESERVED BUSINESS
To note, all of the following have been approved by individual members' signoff on behalf of SCA since the previous meeting.

m25-26/12 Individual Examination Arrangements
It was **noted** that individual examination arrangements for students have been approved on behalf of the Committee since its last meeting.

m25-26/13 Appointment of External Examiners
It was **noted** that various new appointments (or extension to appointments) of external examiners (UG and PGT) have been approved on behalf of the Committee since its last meeting.

m25-26/14 Results Lists
Notification was **received** of recommendations for the award of degrees approved on behalf of the Committee since its last meeting.