

Report from the meeting of Senate held on 5th May 2023

1. Updated Guidance for PABs affected by Industrial Action

As a result of the marking ban as part of ongoing industrial action, Senate was informed that a task group, led by the PVC Learning & Teaching, had reviewed the guidelines approved by Senate in 2006 for Progression and Award Boards (PABs) for situations where Assessment marks were missing due to industrial action. This review found that they remained robust. The group took the opportunity to refresh the guidelines to reflect changes in the environment which had occurred since 2006 (notably, some key terminology had changed). The task group additionally prepared a tool which would help PABs work through scenarios and apply the guidelines.

In discussion, Senators were broadly supportive of the guidelines however concern was expressed that the academic integrity of University awards could be undermined for example, single marking of Honours projects. It was also noted that the guidelines may not be able to be applied where programmes were governed by professional body requirements. Reference to Consideration of Special Factors (CSF) was also flagged as this procedure was replaced by the Mitigating Circumstances Policy and then by the Fit to Sit Policy. The PVC Learning & Teaching welcomed the feedback and gave assurance that quality, standards and maintaining academic rigor was paramount in the task group's thinking in ensuring the guidelines were fit for purpose. He acknowledged that where professional body requirements prevented the application of the guidelines, this needed to be made clearer.

It was highlighted that FAQs were being prepared to support colleagues in the application of the guidelines and that a pre PAB meeting would be held the following week, and this would include colleagues from VISA to address any issues in relation to international students.

Senate noted the updated guidance.

2. AOB - 2023 NSS update

The Chair informed Senate that the University had been informed of an error in relation to the 2023 National Student Survey (NSS). Ipsos, the company that administered the NSS survey, had miscoded Glasgow Caledonian University as an English university, leading to the English NSS questionnaire being administered to students instead of the Scottish questionnaire. While the first 26 questions were exactly the same, and would therefore generate valid and valuable data, the standard question relating to 'overall satisfaction' was not asked as this was not part of the NSS in England this year.

The University had worked closely with the SFC, the Office for Students and Ipsos to mitigate any potential negative impact. In the immediate term, it had been agreed with the SFC that the Scottish sector average for overall satisfaction would be applied to the University at institutional level given that we were at the Scottish sector average in the 2022 NSS. At course and discipline level, having explored a number of options, it was agreed that the 2022 overall satisfaction scores would be noted where appropriate.

Senate echoed the Chair's disappointment that the University would not receive the overall satisfaction rating, however it was noted that the University would still learn a great deal from the NSS results when published, and the outcomes would inform and enhance the student learning experience, building on the considerable progress made in recent years.

The next scheduled meeting of Senate will be held on Wednesday 7th June 2023.