

E-ASEC Summary: 17 - 19 February 2021

Summary of responses by the committee

Paper	Summary	Chair's View
Assessment Regulations 2020-21	The committee members who responded approved the paper with a few comments (detailed below).	Approved
Approved		Mandi Barron
Approved		Sara White
Approved, the change introduced in section 2.2 is welcome for this AY.		Christos Gatzidis
Approve overall but with query regarding changes detailed in 2.3 (uncapped assessment as an additional attempt if exceptional circumstances approval in place). Given the change to 14 day self-cert not requiring evidence (section 1.3) , this could mean that a significant proportion of students may request a retake to try to improve their mark, benefitting from the feedback already received on first submission - if this is the case I would query the equity for students and also the impact of marking load on academics. Greater clarity is needed in section 2.3 to specify the need for evidence in exceptional circumstances in connection with a reassessment to improve a mark, for this to be considered an exception and not the rule, and for limiting retakes per assessment. Also, could be stated whether if a student achieves a lower mark on the retake, the retake mark stands or they would be permitted to retain the previous higher mark from the first take.		Julie Turner-Cobb
<i>Jules Forrest responded: Hi Julie, thanks for this comment, I will aim to clarify as you suggest and you are right to highlight this; we will need to give consideration to how this is communicated to students, so that it allows them to act in their best interests. It is worth noting here that the BU exceptional circs policy allows students to submit for performance impacted, and this remains a fundamental right for all students. The purpose of this change for this year is because the amendments made to the ECs policy is not enough to recognise disadvantage felt across all student groups, given the most recent lockdown, and we are seeing increasing numbers of students submitting ECs in a way that will not be sustainable if it carries on at the current rate for the rest of the academic year. When a similar set of amendments to assessment regulations were introduced under 6R in 2019/20, there was a decrease in the number of ECs submitted, compared even to previous 'normal' years. Under current regulations, the most recent mark is used (not the highest). Students should be counselled as to whether taking another attempt, even if they have passed the element/assessment, would have material difference on their level/stage result. Sector research indicates BU is aligned to the action taken across the sector with regards to this amendment. Thanks Jules</i>		
SUBU approves of this adjustment.		Samantha Leahy-Harland
Approved		Carol Clerk
Approve - but agree with Julie about need for clarity on implications of assorted permutations.		Christa van Raalte
Approved		Chiko Bwalya
Approved		Shelley Thompson
Approved		Jacky Mack