

University of Glasgow

Academic Standards Committee – Friday 9 October 2009

Report from Academic Regulations Sub-Committee meeting 12
June 2009

Professor Tom Guthrie, Convener

Weighting of Assessment Components

The Sub-Committee had received a request from the Programme Approval Group for Engineering and the Sciences to consider policy regarding the extent to which the distribution of assessment weightings should be permitted to vary from the distribution of credits across component courses in a programme. It was noted that in most cases the weighting of assessment mirrored the amount of credit.

The Sub-Committee did not consider that there were grounds for setting a limit on the amount of divergence permitted. **ASC is therefore invited to confirm the policy that where approval is sought for assessment weightings to vary from the distribution of credits across component courses, a case would need to be made to the relevant Programme Approval Group, which will take decisions on a case by case basis.**

Removal of Schedule C from Code of Assessment

EdPSC had approved in principle the recommendation that Schedule C should be removed from the Code of Assessment and the use of grade points be replaced with the 22-point aggregation score scale. The use of two separate numerical scales was potentially confusing and it was felt that it would be more straightforward to use a single scale which permitted a finer granularity of grade scores.

The Convener had considered what the implications of this change would be. The main areas where references to GPAs would need to be replaced with references to weighted average aggregation scores were generic undergraduate provisions on awards, merit and distinction, and progress/admission rules in supplementary regulations. The Sub-Committee discussed substituting the current reference to GPA with a weighted average aggregation score which would correspond to the minimum achievement for the grade which is currently equivalent to the Grade Points used:

Current Grade Points	Weighted Average Aggregation Score
16	18
14	15
12	12
10	9
8	6

6	3
2	1
0	0

In some cases it was possible to make a straightforward match (e.g. GPA 10 → WAA 9, required for the award of an ordinary degree). But this was more difficult with other GPAs, e.g. GPA 9 (required for progress), the equivalent WAA for which would lie somewhere between 6 and 9. While it could be argued that the direct equivalent would be 7.5, the Sub-Committee felt that introducing halves into the regulations was unsatisfactory. It was suggested that in this case the WAA should be rounded to 8. It was proposed that the current requirement for the award of DipHE of GPA 8.5 be substituted with a WAA of 7.

The Sub-Committee agreed to propose to ASC that weighted average aggregation scores be substituted for GPAs as indicated above and that where this scheme offered no direct equivalent, ASC be invited to offer guidance on the tariff to be developed.