Guidelines on Sympathetic Flexibility

It has been recognised that at the heart of the College’s activities is a commitment to the intellectual and personal development of its students (Strategic Plan 2009-14, 04 Student Experience). At present College attempts to provide sympathetic flexibility to students who require it, either because of their involvement in high-performance sporting or other activities, or for personal reasons. Students should, in the first place, contact their tutor and discuss the case with the course director. The tutor should then bring the request for sympathetic flexibility to the Senior Lecturer.

The following guidelines have been approved by College:

- In areas where professional competencies are being developed, and where there is a risk of the student being ‘deskilled’ as a result of any flexible arrangements, the requirements of the course will take precedence.
- In areas where flexible arrangements are possible, and do not go against the new harmonization regulations, College will attempt to be sympathetic to students involved in high-level activities (whether of a sporting or other nature), or where personal circumstances require such flexibility. These must be agreed jointly by the course director and the Senior Lecturer.
- In the event of there being any disagreement about the necessity of a flexible arrangement, or any uncertainty about the high-level activity involved, the case will be discussed by a specialist group, chaired by the Vice-Provost/Chief Academic Officer, and including the Dean of Students, the Senior Lecturer, the student’s tutor, and the course director, and involving any expert testimonies that are required. This group will make the final decision about whether the flexible arrangements should be allowed.

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 22 February 2013

USC/12-13/049 Guidelines on Sympathetic Flexibility

XX A memorandum from the Senior Lecturer, dated 18th February 2013, was circulated. The Senior Lecturer advised that the guidelines for sympathetic flexibility had been prepared in consultation with the Senior Tutor, the Vice-Provost and the Dean of Students. The three main suggestions were:

- course requirements would normally take precedence in areas where professional competencies are being developed and where there is a risk of a student being deskilled,
- where possible, College will attempt to be sympathetic to all students involved in high-level activities,
- a group, chaired by the Vice-Provost or nominee, and including the Dean of Students, the Senior Lecturer, the student’s tutor (or the Senior Tutor) and the course director, would make the final decision regarding flexibility where there is any disagreement; although it is expected that there will be very few cases where this will be necessary

The Committee approved the guidelines for sympathetic flexibility.