

## What's new for 2010 in the **General Regulations on Student Discipline**

- Academic offences will be heard in Schools when the student admits the charge; students will no longer be able to opt to be tried by the Disciplinary Board in the first instance (ie delete C2.6c a). Assessment Offences Officers would retain the right to refer matters to the University Discipline Officer if the penalties at their disposal in the University Tariff of Penalties do not appear to be appropriate for the offence e.g. a new type of offence for which guidance is required. (C2.7)
- To deal with the problem of students who fail to respond to charges, Aston should include a new key principle in Part A as follows "*Failure to respond to a lesser charge: in the case of an offence committed in LIS or in Residences for which the penalty is a fine (of £200 or less); if a student fails to respond (after reasonable attempts have been made) to a written charge from an ADO, the penalty shall be applied. The student may appeal against the penalty*".
- The following has been added to key principles section A: "*The University will refer students to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) as required by the law when it considers that an individual has caused harm or poses a risk of harm to a relevant vulnerable group*".
- The following has been added to A1.15: '*Where a student is unable to attend for good reason (e.g. distance learning students) the Chair and/or Officer may agree to organise a virtual hearing.*
- Regulation B5.3 has been amended as follows "*In appropriate circumstances (e.g. to avoid holding two separate hearings) the Authorised Discipline Officer (ADO) may be accompanied at the meeting, including by not more than one other ADO*".
- As precautionary exclusion was in practice exercised by the Vice-Chancellor, Senior Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Director of Staff and Student Services (or nominee), Senate has approved a proposal to remove paragraph B3.2 which gave Authorised Discipline Officers the right of precautionary exclusion.
- Revisions to the Tariff of Penalties:
  - Clarification on discretion in applying the Tariff i.e. that discretion should apply in atypical cases.
  - Now includes: 'more than one offence coming to light at the same time' as a separate category from 'repeat offence'.
  - Clarifies that 'record of all informal warnings' is to be kept by Schools (i.e. not on SITS and therefore not part of formal disciplinary record for student).
  - Severity level 1: additional text added for clarification.
  - Falsification of data included as an offence for taught as well as research students.

### **Regulations on Fitness to Practise (School of Life and Health Sciences)**

New Regulations on Fitness to Practise have been approved (reflecting professional body requirements in life and health sciences), subject to minor amendment.

These are applicable from 1 July 2010 as follows:

All current students (all intake years) to Postgraduate Diploma for Overseas Pharmacists, MPharm Pharmacy, BSc Biomedical Science and BSc Audiology.

From 1 September 2010 only:

Graduate Diploma in Optometry and BSc Optometry.