

**Minutes of meetings held between February 2007 and March 2010, at which changes to the University of Edinburgh Admissions Policy were discussed**

Minutes of the  
**Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions Committee**  
**College of Humanities & Social Science**  
Monday 8 October 2007

3.2 Admissions Policy Review Group Interim Report

LK reported that the interim report had been discussed at RASC and a summary of recommendations was forwarded to APC. However that summary document had not yet been made available to members of RASC and there was some uncertainty as to further developments. Within HSS certain recommendations have already been acted on e.g. re-writing notes of guidance to make them more comprehensible to readers.

LK put forward the possibility of measuring effectiveness of policy change by surveying 2004 cohort who will be graduating this year.

The possibility of removing First in Family was discussed due to its lack of validity, the suspected legality of it and potential under reporting. Committee also discussed its use as part of the selection process and LK reported that we are one of few Universities using it for selection purposes. It was agreed to continue to use this for one further year and then review.

[Further information: Despite its use in the process being entirely legal, 'First in Family' is no longer an automatic selection criterion, because of concern regarding the validity of the data. Should the data provided via UCAS become more robust, this policy will be reviewed.]

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Minutes of the  
**Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Committee**  
**The University of Edinburgh**  
Tuesday 4 December 2007

12. Admissions Policy

12.1 Update on Implementation of Recommendations of APRG RASC 07/08 1 N

12.1.1 It was agreed that research into some of the issues and recommendations outlined in the report of the APRG was required. Andrew Thompson agreed to lead this research if an appropriate timescale and sufficient resource were allocated. It was agreed that Liz Lister, Andrew Thompson and others would meet to agree an appropriate timescale and terms of reference for this review in an effort to secure sufficient resource to carry it out. It was noted that support from the Colleges was crucial to the success of this research.

[Action: Andrew Thompson / Liz Lister]

12.2 Minimum Entry Grades

RASC 07/08 1 O

12.2.1 RASC noted the request to raise entry grades in five Schools in the College of Science and Engineering, but agreed that broader discussions, supported by hard evidence, were required before these could be approved. Members noted the importance of maintaining consistency in minimum entry grades.

12.3 Simplification of Selection Process/Criteria

12.3.1 Members noted that this should form part of the remit of the review of the recommendations of the APRG.

12.4	<u>Differential Offer Making</u>	
12.4.1	Members noted that differential offer making should also form part of the remit of the review of the recommendations of the APRG.	

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Minutes of the  
**Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Committee**  
**The University of Edinburgh**  
 Wednesday 19 March 2008

12.	<p>Interim Report of Admissions Policy Review Group                  AT reported that the initial Admissions Policy Review Group came to interim conclusions which became the starting point for the new group. To avoid confusion it was agreed that the group would be renamed 'Admissions Policy Research Group'. Its remit recognises the changes over the years and will use available statistics to come up with principles and criteria for developing an admissions policy that is fit-for-purpose over the next five years. The research questions have grown; but the group wanted the questions to show a clear understanding of strategic aims of the University along with the WP strategy. It also aims to establish criteria for measuring success.</p> <p>The research questions will focus on entry qualifications and progression; equivalence of different educational qualifications (eg. Scottish, English and FE) and issues around the minimum entry requirements; and questions related to Widening Participation including whether WP students are floundering as a result of being admitted on the minimum, and how the University confirms that a student is first generation. The research group will have to deliver answers by the end of the summer and AT confirmed that a postgraduate MSc student, under AT's supervision, will be doing some of the analysis for her dissertation, and that the group would be seeking funding for an additional 6-month traineeship to support the work of APRG. Issues relating to accessibility of data, location and robustness of the research will have to be addressed, particularly as MB noted that the research</p>	RASC 07/08 3 R
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	<p>must be able to defend a new admissions policy.</p> <p>AT confirmed that the person carrying out the research would be able to publish as a result and that it is important to engage with stakeholders as part of this. AT will invite comment possibly making use of Web CT.</p> <p>Further discussion was held regarding the use of focus groups in this research and confirming that the research will be used by RASC, PSG and the Senate in order to inform change to the admissions policy. AT noted that the development of any changes will be closed business under Freedom of Information since it is business sensitive. AT also noted that Schools hoping to change minimum entry requirements will have to be informed about the research.</p>	<p>Action: KH/EL/AT</p>
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[Further information: see 'UoE LEAPS degree outcomes' for WP student progression and outcome statistics]

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Minutes of the  
**Admissions Policy Research Group**  
**The University of Edinburgh**  
 6<sup>th</sup> October 2008

1. Discussion of quantitative research report

Action – reallocate NI to band A (97% progression rate to HE in these schools) and account for selective grammar schools in the school type analysis. (AT/PF)

2. Discussion of qualitative research report

The group then moved on to discuss the qualitative report. The main points made were as follows:-

- AT felt that not changing does not seem to be an option. Not all the calls for change are evidence based but important to acknowledge the ideological arguments.

3. Options discussion

The group considered some of the options for action which might be presented to RASC or its successor, the main points being as follows:-

[Redacted content]

[REDACTED]

- LH stated that CSE would like the minimum standard to be higher than it is now but are in favour of differential offer-making. Accept it is contentious, but feel it can be defended.

4. Next steps

A date for RASC is needed and Mary has been approached about this. NM pointed out that any changes would need to be cleared in November-December to make the 2010 prospectus publication schedule.

AT proposed that members send him their thoughts about the likely options to propose to RASC, and their pro and cons, and that a summary of these could be prepared and circulated. Members agreed to do this by the end of the week.

Post-meeting note:

Item 1 action – NI schools were not re-allocated to Band A, due to existing data proving satisfactory.

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Minute of the  
**Recruitment and Admissions Strategy Committee**  
**The University of Edinburgh**  
 Wednesday 19 November 2008

9.	Undergraduate Admissions Policy Research Group MB said that it is important to note that the admissions policy has not lowered standards but any new policy must continue to support LEAPS and Pathways,
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<p>and ensure that we continue to focus on the University attracting the best students rather than students just holding our comparatively low offers for insurance.</p> <p>The group discussed admissions principles in detail that had been drafted by AT. It was agreed that colleagues send any suggested changes to AT.</p> <p>All recognised that changing the minimum academic entry requirements could have an impact on WP students, however all agreed that published entry requirements should be more transparent. It was discussed that the Law website does this – minimum entry requirements are published in the prospectus, but the website gives information on the admissions policy and the typical academic entry grades.</p> <p>It was agreed that Colleges would consider a minimum entry grade for each subject and the typical entry grade, and how this will be published should be discussed further by email.</p>
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Minutes of the  
**Undergraduate Recruitment and Admissions Committee**  
**College of Humanities & Social Science**  
27 April 2009

3. Recommendation for changes to the Admissions Policy: based on the APRG findings

Update by Andy Thomson. Paper now drafted – Andy to circulate to all members of committee. Principle of present policy will remain unchanged however some changes recommended for 2010 entry Action AT

a. academic qualifications – still most important factor however to be incorporated in to a predicted grade and level of demand scoring system for offers to be made based on points required for particular degree programme coupled with other factors – will lead to differential offer making



d. First in family – evidence strongly supports this as an important factor, however not able to be adequately certified. 

e. personal qualities ( personal statement & reference) – although subjective still important as an endorsement of application - and a useful check for motivation and special circumstances

Discussion

[Redacted]

c. further research needed on entry grades and achievement at university to back up policy. JR will investigate possibility of funding a research MSc to look at admissions data analysis  
Action JR

d. triage of yes, no, possible - predictor of offer chances to link with ready reckoner - Andy has applied for funding - no uptake as yet

Way forward

1. Committee agreed to endorse Andy's proposals – however can HSS set its own policy? – felt that it should be endorsed university wide - if no RASC not clear to which policy group. Proposals will be submitted to Liz Lister SRA and Mary Bownes VP and SCE so that  
Action AT
2. proposals could go to next P & R meeting on 08 June
3. Committee agreed that would not be possible to commence new system for 2010 entry – aim for 2011 entry

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Minutes of the  
**Admissions & Recruitment Executive**  
**The University of Edinburgh**  
Wednesday, 23 September 2009

4	Report from the College of Humanities & Social Science [Redacted]	
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