



YMDDYGIAD ANNHEG / UNFAIR PRACTICE

Adroddiad i'r Bwrdd Academaidd ar ymchwiliadau a gynhaliwyd yn ystod 2013-14 Report to Academic Board on investigations which were conducted during 2013-14

1. 2013-14 was the final session in which suspected cases of unfair practice were investigated in accordance with the Academic Regulation on Unfair Practice. As in previous years, in suspected cases involving no more than 20 credits of assessed work, outside of formal examinations, students were allowed to choose to have the case investigated by a departmental panel or by a University Committee of Inquiry. All cases arising out of formal examinations, or where the work involved was worth more than 20 credits, were considered by a University Committee of Inquiry.

Investigations by departmental panels

2. Following the dissolution of Faculties at the end of the 2012-13 session, Academic Affairs Committee had approved revised procedures for 2013-14. Penalties were no longer subject to approval by Deans, but AQRO were responsible for checking that the penalties which were applied by panels were appropriate and in line with the guidance issued to Institutes. AQRO also checked that procedures had been followed within Institutes. While penalties in the majority of cases were in accordance to the guidance, there were instances where panels recommended reduced penalties on the basis of special circumstances, or recommended non-standard penalties. In these cases AQRO offered advice and discussed cases with the panel Chair, and where there were strong grounds for deviating from the standard penalties, referred the case for decision by the Pro Vice-Chancellor. AQRO was also responsible for informing students of the outcomes of investigations.
3. During 2013-14 departments investigated 113 cases of suspected unfair practice (against 63 cases in 2012-13). In 7 cases students were found not to have committed unfair practice and neither was there any bad practice. No further action was taken. In 106 cases the students were either found guilty of unfair practice, or it was determined that bad practice had occurred. Instances both of bad practice and of unfair practice were higher than in 2012-13, although there was a reduction in the number of postgraduate cases (a total of four cases, against a figure of six in 2012-13). There were no investigations into unfair practice in a total of four departments (Welsh, European Languages, Art, Mathematics and Physics).
4. The attached table shows the number of cases in which unfair practice and bad practice were found to have occurred, broken down by Institute and department and with the previous year's departmental figures included for comparison. A total of 63 cases of **Unfair** Practice were confirmed in 2013-14 – 29 at Part One, 33 at Part Two and 1 at postgraduate level. During 2012-13, a total of 38 cases of Unfair Practice were confirmed – 12 at Part One, 25 at Part Two and 1 at postgraduate level.
5. In most cases in which unfair practice was found not to have occurred, departments found evidence of bad practice, and the mark for the work in question was reduced according to the scale of the bad practice. During 2013-14, a total of 44 cases of **Bad** Practice were confirmed: 14 at Part One, 27 at Part Two and 3 at postgraduate level. This compares to 20 cases of Bad Practice confirmed in 2013-13: 4 at Part One, 10 at Part Two and 6 at postgraduate level.

Investigations by the University Committee of Inquiry

6. Members of the University Committee of Inquiry were drawn from a standing panel of 14, with two nominations from each Institute. During 2013-14 a total of 15 cases of suspected Unfair Practice were investigated by the University Committee (six arising from formal examinations, and nine from coursework assessments). The Committee found that the allegation of Unfair Practice had been substantiated in 13 cases.

HGRh 10/2014

Appendix**Unfair Practice investigations within Institutes, 2013-14**

(2012-13 figures in brackets)

Institute/Department	Unfair Practice			Bad Practice			Total
	Part 1	Part 2	PGT	Part 1	Part 2	PGT	
IBERS	4 (4)	7 (1)	1 (0)	2 (0)	3 (0)	0 (0)	17 (5)
ILLCA							
European Languages	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
TFTS	7 (4)	8 (7)	0 (0)	3 (1)	3 (1)	0 (0)	21 (13)
Cymraeg	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
Art	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
English	5 (0)	6 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	11 (1)
IGHP							
Geography	0 (0)	4 (2)	0 (0)	0 (1)	2 (2)	0 (0)	6 (4)
History	7 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (4)	0 (0)	8 (4)
International Politics	4 (2)	3 (1)	0 (0)	2 (0)	3 (2)	1 (0)	13 (5)
IMPaCS							
Computer Science	0 (0)	3 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	0 (0)	7 (1)
Maths & Physics	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
IMLIS							
Law & Criminology	1 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (3)
DIS	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (0)	2 (1)
SMB	0 (0)	2 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	4 (0)	0 (6)	6 (8)
IEGPD							
SELL	1 (2)	0 (6)	0 (0)	1 (1)	3 (1)	0 (0)	5 (10)