

YMCHWILIADAU YMDDYGIAD ANNHEG GAN ADRANNAU – 2012-13
UNFAIR PRACTICE INVESTIGATIONS BY DEPARTMENTS – 2012-13

Report prepared by Academic Quality and Records Office, October 2013

1. In suspected cases of unfair practice involving no more than 20 credits of assessed work, outside of formal examinations, students may choose to have the case investigated by a departmental panel or by a University Committee of Inquiry. Under the procedure in operation during 2012-13 Departments were expected to notify the relevant Dean that an investigation is being carried out, and report on the outcome. The Dean's approval was required where a penalty was imposed for unfair practice. In such cases the Dean would check that the investigation had been properly conducted and that the penalty was consistent with university guidelines.
2. During 2012-13 departments investigated 63 cases of suspected unfair practice (against 87 cases in 2011-12). In 5 cases students were found not to have committed unfair practice and neither was there any bad practice. No further action was taken. In 58 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 lower than in 2011-12, including a reduction in the number of postgraduate cases (a total of six cases, against a figure of 15 in 2011-12). There were no investigations into unfair practice in a total of five departments.
3. The attached table shows the number of cases in which unfair practice and bad practice were found to have occurred, broken down by department and Faculty and with the previous year's figures included for comparison. A total of 38 cases of **Unfair Practice** were confirmed in 2012-13 – 12 at Part One, 25 at Part Two and 1 at postgraduate level. During 2011-12, a total of 41 cases of Unfair Practice were confirmed – 2 at Part One, 29 at Part Two and 10 at postgraduate level.
4. 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 2012-13, a total of 20 cases of **Bad Practice** were confirmed: 4 at Part One, 10 at Part Two and 6 at postgraduate level. This compares to 35 cases of Bad Practice confirmed in 2011-12: 10 at Part One, 20 at Part Two and 5 at postgraduate level.
5. Departments generally recommended penalties for unfair practice which were in line with the guidelines. At Part One, students were normally awarded zero for the module in question but allowed to resit. At Part Two, and at postgraduate level, the standard penalty was a mark of zero for the work in question with no resit if the module was failed. On occasion departments proposed non-standard penalties, which were approved by the Deans where a strong case was made, but in most cases the recommendation was rejected and a standard penalty applied.
7. New procedures have been approved by Academic Affairs for 2012-13, and have been circulated to Institute Directors and Institute Managers. Penalties will no longer be subject to approval by Deans, but AQRO will now inform students of the outcome of unfair practice investigations after checking that correct procedures have been followed within Institutes.

Ymchwiliadau Ymddygiad Annheg gan Adranau 2012-13 / Unfair Practice Investigations by Departments 2012-13												
Figures in brackets are from 2011-12												
				Unfair Practice			Bad Practice			Total		
				Part One	Part Two	PG	Part One	Part Two	PG			
Faculty of Arts												
Art				0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)		
Education and Lifelong Learning				2 (0)	6 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	10 (2)		
English and Creative Writing				0 (0)	1 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (1)		
European Languages				0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)		
Geography and Earth Sciences				0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)		
History and Welsh History				0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)	0 (0)	4 (0)		
Theatre, Film and Television Studies				4 (0)	7 (13)	0 (0)	1 (3)	1 (3)	0 (0)	13 (19)		
Welsh				0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)		
Total				6 (0)	14 (14)	0 (0)	3 (3)	6 (6)	0 (0)	29 (23)		
Faculty of Social Sciences												
Information Studies				0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	1 (3)		
International Politics				2 (1)	1 (1)	0 (1)	0 (1)	2 (4)	0 (2)	5 (10)		
Law and Criminology				0 (0)	2 (1)	1 (3)	0 (1)	0 (0)	0 (2)	3 (7)		
Management and Business				0 (0)	1 (2)	0 (4)	1 (1)	0 (0)	6 (0)	8 (7)		
Total				2 (1)	5 (4)	1 (10)	1 (3)	2 (4)	6 (5)	17 (27)		
Faculty of Science												
IBERS				4 (0)	1 (2)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (2)	0 (0)	5 (6)		
Computer Science				0 (0)	1 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (1)	0 (0)	1 (1)		
Geography and Earth Sciences				0 (0)	2 (9)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (7)	0 (0)	4 (16)		
Mathematics and Physics				0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)		
Sport and Exercise Science				0 (1)	2 (0)	0 (0)	0 (2)	0 (0)	0 (0)	2 (3)		
Psychology				0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)		
Total				4 (1)	6 (11)	0 (0)	0 (4)	2 (10)	0 (0)	12 (26)		
Notes												
1. In 5 investigations (2 in IBERS; 1 in SES; 3 in SES) neither bad nor unfair practice was found to have occurred.												