



Senate

Paper Title	Chair's actions
Outcome requested	Senate is asked to note the detail of Chair's actions taken since the last meeting.
Points for Senate members to note and further information	There have been two Chair's actions since the last meeting of Senate held on 4 March 2021: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The appointment of two new Queen Mary Complaints Assessors.2. Approval of the Research Degrees Programmes and Examination Board's (RDPEB) response to Senate on the proposal for unfunded PhD extensions due to disruption to research caused by Covid-19.
Questions for Senate to consider	n/a
Regulatory/statutory reference points	n/a
Strategy and risk	n/a
Reporting/consideration route for the paper	n/a
Authors	n/a
Sponsor	n/a

Chair's action

Appointment of two new Queen Mary Complaints Assessors

Summary

Chair's action was taken to confirm the appointment of two additional officers to consider student complaints and to allow the nominees to take on cases immediately in order to reduce an existing backlog. Appointments were approved as follows:

- Ms Frances Ridout
- Professor Wayne Morrison

Approval of RDPEB's response to Senate on the proposal for unfunded PhD extensions due to disruption to research caused by Covid-19

Summary

At its last meeting on 04 March 2021 Senate considered a proposal for a 3-month unfunded extension of registration to be granted to currently registered research students with a thesis submission deadline after 1 March 2020 who have not yet submitted their thesis for examination. This recommendation was part of the mitigating actions being taken to support research students in managing the disruption to research studies caused by Covid-19.

It was proposed that the extension would be applied to research students who:

- do not have an extension of registration already approved;
- have an approved extension of less than three months which will be increased to three months;
- have interrupted their studies for a reason unrelated to Covid-19.

Senate 'noted that the current policy excluded students who had interrupted for a Covid-related reason. Senate was asked to **consider** whether this requirement should be removed from the policy. This could lead to duplicating consideration of students who had already been extended. Senate **agreed** that the matter should be referred back to RDPEB for consideration. RDPEB could monitor the workload related to considering exceptional cases and amend the policy accordingly. Senate **approved** the policy as written'. [Unconfirmed minute 2020.155].

RDPEB has since re-considered the policy and confirmed that the policy would not apply to students who already had 3-month extensions granted on the grounds of Covid-19. The rationale for this decision was:

- the proposal is designed to support the many students who have not requested an interruption of study or extension of registration during the pandemic, therefore a blanket 3-month extension to all students was not in line with the objectives of the policy;
- students who had already interrupted their studies due to Covid-19 related disruption and illness have already received extensions to their registration specific to their personal circumstances and study plans;
- students who already had Covid-19 related interruptions of study or an extension of registration, as well as those receiving this 3-month extension, may request

additional time specific to their circumstances through the interruption or extension processes, ensuring that all students are treated equally;

- students who have interrupted due to non-Covid related reasons will not have had any additional time in relation to Covid. These students will be given an additional 3-month extension of registration.