1. UNIVERSITY POLICY ON AND UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE COURSE RULES FOR BACHELOR OF PHILOSOPHY (HONS) – Ref F35860, F36453

At its meeting of July 2009, Academic Council endorsed the ‘Operational Guidelines for the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) Working Party report” which states that “That, to remain in the B.Phil (Hons), students normally be required to achieve a Level 1 and Level 2 WAM of 80 or above, and a Level 3 WAM of 75 or above”.

By R91/11 Academic Council approved, at its meeting of June 2011, the University Policy on the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) in which clause 3.6 states that: “To remain in the BPhil(Hons), students are normally required to achieve a WAM of 80 or above”.

By R154/11 Academic Council approved, at its meeting of August 2011, the undergraduate degree course rules for the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) in which Rule 13 states that: “To make satisfactory progress in a calendar year a student must pass all units in which they remain enrolled after the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty and achieve a Weighted Average Mark of 80 or above”.

Members noted a memorandum, as attached to the circular agenda, which recommended that clause 3.6 of the University Policy on Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) and Rule 13 of the Undergraduate Degree Course Rules for the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) be amended as follows to align with the operational guidelines as endorsed by Council in July 2009:

• Clause 3.6 of the University Policy on Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) be amended to read as follows: “To remain in the BPhil(Hons), a student in their first or second academic year is normally required to achieve a WAM of 80 or above in 75 per cent of units undertaken, and a student in their third academic year is normally required to achieve a WAM of 75 or above in 75 per cent units undertaken”.

• Rule 13 of the Undergraduate Degree Course Rules for the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) be amended to read as follows:
  (1) “To make satisfactory progress, a student must:
   (a) pass all units in which they remain enrolled after the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty; and
   (b)(i) achieve a weighted average mark of at least 80 in 75 per cent of units undertaken, if the student is in their first or second academic year; or
   (ii) achieve a weighted average mark of at least 75 in 75 per cent of units undertaken, if the student is in their third academic year.
  (2) A student who has not passed one or more of the ACE module, the CARS module or the ISE module when their progress status is assessed will not have made satisfactory progress”.

Feedback from members noted that the amended policy and rule as proposed above included concepts that could be difficult to operationalise and for students to understand. In light of this, the Chair has endorsed the following as a way forward:

(i) That clause 3.6 of the University Policy on Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons), as originally approved by R91/11, remains unchanged to read as follows: “To remain in the BPhil(Hons), students are normally required to achieve a WAM of 80 or above”.

1 Academic year is defined in the University Policy on Academic year of a bachelor’s degree student calculation as follows: “Students enrolled in a bachelor’s degree course are in their
  (a) First academic year until they have accumulated 48 credit points
  (b) Second academic year after they have accumulated 48 credit points and until they have accumulated 96 points;
  (c) Third academic year after they have accumulated 96 credit points and until they have accumulated 144 points;”
(ii) That rule 13 of the Undergraduate Degree Course Rules for the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons), as originally approved by R154/11, be amended (changes underlined) to read as follows to align with the policy previously approved by Academic Council: “To make satisfactory progress in a calendar year a student must pass all units in which they remain enrolled after the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty and normally achieve a Weighted Average Mark of 80 or above”.

(iii) That the Board of Studies for the Bachelor of Philosophy (Honours) be asked to consider ways of operationalising the satisfactory progress policy and rule as set out in (i) and (ii) above taking into account the intent of the operational guidelines endorsed in 2009 and the proposed amendments to the rules and policy for the BPhil(Hons) as set out in the circular agenda.

RESOLVED – 233

To approve the proposed amendment to Rule 13 of the Undergraduate Degree Course Rules for the Bachelor of Philosophy (Hons) to read as follows: “To make satisfactory progress in a calendar year a student must pass all units in which they remain enrolled after the final date for withdrawal without academic penalty and normally achieve a Weighted Average Mark of 80 or above”.

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<td>30/11/11</td>
<td>Kabilan Krishnasamy</td>
<td>RMS</td>
<td>Academic Secretary (Sylvia Lang) – Amendment to Policy</td>
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<td>Copy extract emailed to: Senior Academic Reviewer (W/Prof Ian Reid); Senior Legislative Officer (Claire McIlroy); Academic secretary (Sylvia Lang); Executive Officers – BoS BPhil (Kabilan Krishnasamy/ Kaye McPherson-Smith); Chair BoS-BPhil (W/Prof Krishna Sen); BPhil Coordinator (Assoc/Prof Jenna Mead); Deans; FAQs; Director Student Services (Jon Stubbs); Associate Director, Student Administration (Harvey von-Bergheim)</td>
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