Amendments to Regulatory Environment, Non-detriment arrangements and Assessment arrangements for Easton Higher Education Students

As a result of the ongoing impact of CV-19 we have agreed with UEA the following amendments to the Partnership BIM Regulations under which your Higher Education programme is delivered in order to ensure that we are providing an equal opportunity for our students at this time.

These steps that have been taken with two key concerns in mind:

First, we must **maintain academic standards** and ensure the value of our degrees, as required by the Office for Students, the Department for Education, the Quality Assurance Agency and other regulatory bodies.

Second, we are keen to support our students to be able to progress and succeed in their studies and we recognise the significant challenges that many will inevitably face as a result of the COVID-19 disruption. We therefore want the burden of assessment to be as light as possible and we want to put in place safeguards to support students and relieve their stress.

For all UEA Awarded degrees and with the exceptions noted we propose that in recognition of the impact of CV-19 the following amendments are introduced.

1) All CCN students have access to a **blanket extension of 10 working days for all written assignments** accessed without the need to make a request or to provide any evidence. Students will need to complete the <u>E-Mitigating Circumstance Form</u> on VLE (Moodle) and email to your programme/course leader for it to be processed. If students feel that this still will not be enough time for them to complete their assessed work, UEA are advising them not to commence the task at this time and will give them **another first attempt opportunity** in the next assessment session in August.

2) In the case of online exams or an assessment 'event', any student who is not able to sit an assessment will be **automatically provided with another first attempt opportunity** in the next assessment session without the need for request or provision of any evidence.

3) Where examinations have been redesigned as **online assessment exercises** these will remain open for a 24 hour window so they can be taken by students at a time that suits them. Additional mechanisms are being explored to ensure that this provides parity for all students including word count limits and a redesigned marking rubric.

4) **For final year students,** not on PSRB courses, the pass requirements are:
   a. Passing all 'core' modules;
   b. Achieving a credit weighting average mark for the year of 40%; and
   c. Passing modules worth at least 80 credits in total

For the purposes of degree classification, we will introduce a **safety-net** so that a student's final year average cannot be lower than the average they have attained in the previous 'counting' year of study. This safety net means that a student's degree classification can only be improved by undertaking any further assessments this year. In addition to the safety-net the Awards Boards will have the discretion to consider carefully the pattern of marks during the final year. This will enable Boards to identify where there looks to have been a detrimental impact as a result of the COVID-19 situation which can be taken into due consideration in degree classifications.

5) For penultimate year Bachelors degree students, not on PSRB courses, the requirements are:
    a. Passing all 'core' modules;
    b. Achieving a credit weighting average mark for the year of 40%; and
    c. Passing modules worth at least 80 credits in total

For the purposes of degree classification, we will introduce a safety-net so that students are not disadvantaged. When we calculate students' degree classifications at the end of next academic year (2020/21), if the year average in 2020/21 is higher than the year average for 2019/20, we will exclude this year's year average and only use the final year average in the calculation.

In addition to the safety-net the Awards Boards will have the discretion to consider carefully the pattern of marks during the counting years. This will enable Boards to identify where there looks to have been a detrimental impact as a result of the COVID-19 situation which can be taken into due consideration in degree classifications.

6) For First Year students the requirements are
    a. Passing all 'core' modules; and
    b. Passing modules worth at least 60 credits in total

7) For Foundation Degree final year and Top Up students please note that the 'safety net' for these programmes sits with the Exam Boards which will have the discretion to consider carefully the pattern of marks during the final year. This will enable Boards to identify where there looks to have been a detrimental impact as a result of the COVID-19 situation which can be taken into due consideration in degree classifications.

Arrangements for Summative Assessments
Where the impact of CV-19 and in particular the requirements of government policy on Social Distancing require differentiated forms of assessment from those published in the Module Specification, the following alternative assessments will be used.

Presentations (including group presentations) - these will be delivered as live assessments using Microsoft Teams. Tutors and Technical Support colleagues will provide assistance in utilising the technology and there will be no impact on marking from the technical aspect of delivery.

Workshops *– These will be facilitated online through Microsoft Teams*

Examinations *– Exams can be facilitated online as 'Open Book' and will be available for a 24 hour period on the existing timetabled date (0930hours – 0930hours British Summer Time) to ensure they are universally inclusive; accessible; allow for caring responsibilities; accommodate differing time-zones or study needs.*

Artefacts *-scanned and presented online via Microsoft Teams wherever possible.*

Practical assessments *– redesigned where possible to provide a similar experience (for example a viva) or grade may be based off previous formative assessment.*