



THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE MEDICAL SCHOOL
FACULTY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL
SCIENCES

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24 October 2017

Dear Professor Pascale Quester Deputy Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Academic),

The implications of the changes made in the University's 2016 'Modified Arrangement for Coursework Assessment Policy' have come to the attention of Staff and Students of the University of Adelaide Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences (FHMS)*

Section 5 titled "Additional Assessment", subsection e) states:

A student will not be entitled to an Additional Assessment if they:

- i. Received a Fail grade as a result of a breach of the Academic Honesty Policy;
- ii. have not met any attendance requirements of the course;
- iii. have not completed all specified mandated assessment tasks;
- iv. have already sat a Replacement Examination for the course, even if the mark that they received in the Replacement Examination would make them eligible; or
- v. are also eligible for a Replacement Examination or Assessment Extension, as those Modified Arrangements take precedence.

This letter refers in particular to clause iv, and asks for this exclusion to be removed from the document.

Background: Additional and Replacement Assessments

As per section 4a) of this document "A student may apply for a Replacement Examination in accordance with clause 7 if, as a result of their Circumstances they were, are, or will be unable to demonstrate their true level of competence in a Primary Examination". In such a case, the Replacement Examination becomes the student's Primary Assessment.

As per section 5b) of this document, "A student will be offered an Additional Assessment if they receive a Fail grade for a course with an underlying mark within 5% of a passing grade (normally 45-49%)". It is our understanding that the intention of an 'Additional Assessment' is to allow students, who demonstrate a borderline performance in their Primary Assessment, to sit an Additional Assessment in order to determine whether they are deserving of a pass or fail grade.

By extension of this point, it seems only fair that students for whom their Primary Assessment is a 'Replacement Examination', should be eligible for an 'Additional Assessment' should they receive a Fail grade for a course with an underlying mark within 5% of a passing grade (normally 45-49%), in order to determine whether they deserving of a pass or fail grade.

Given that a 'Replacement Assessment' is awarded on the basis of, but not limited to, Medical Circumstance, Compassionate and/or Extenuating Circumstances, it seems unjust for the University of Adelaide to discriminate against students on the basis of their health or other extenuating circumstances at the time of the original examination.

Whilst we hope this was not the intention of the original document, our impression is that such a policy is very high risk for the University in that it supports an institutionalised discrimination against students who find themselves in a medical, compassionate or other extenuating circumstance, particularly when a proportion of these students are going through personal struggles during this period.

Furthermore, it could be viewed that this is an administrative-driven measure to avoid having to run additional assessments at the expense of these those suffering from physical or mental health issues or other extenuating circumstances.

The document itself is not due for review until the 31st of December 2018, however, it is the view of both the staff and students involved in the writing of this letter that this exclusion be removed as a matter of urgency.

Should this not be possible in the first instance, then we would request further information as to how the Medical School could receive an exemption from this policy whilst the issue was further discussed in relation to the wider university.

Kind regards,



Professor Ian Symonds
Dean of Medicine



Mr. Jarrad Hopkins
2017 Undergraduate Representative,
University Council



Ms. Georgina Morphett
2017 Undergraduate Representative,
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Mr. Mark Pace
2017 Student Representative Council President



Mr. Patrick Kennewell
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