

## Item 4: Taught Students Observing Courses - policy review

This is a proposed revision to the 'Taught Students Observing Courses' policy previously approved on Wednesday 12th October 2011 ([http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/admin/committees/teaching/meetings/12-10-11/Taught\\_Students\\_Observing.pdf](http://www.inf.ed.ac.uk/admin/committees/teaching/meetings/12-10-11/Taught_Students_Observing.pdf)).

### **Current Policy**

#### **Item 10: Taught Students Observing Courses**

For some time, we have had a general rule that taught students should not officially audit additional courses. G. Bell asked the Committee to formalise this rule as policy. Following clarification that students could still attend additional lectures of interest to them but would not be registered as a class only student on EUCLID, the Committee agreed to pass the policy.

**ACTION:** G. Bell will circulate an email to DoSs to clarify the new policy

#### **"Taught Students Observing Courses**

[http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/10-11/regulations/cse\\_undergrad.php](http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/10-11/regulations/cse_undergrad.php)

"9. Students may attend additional Honours courses on a class-only basis (i.e. not for credit), with the agreement of the Course Organiser and the approval of the Director of Studies."

The School has a general rule not to permit taught students to take courses as "class only"/ "Observer" (only PGR students are permitted to do this). Teaching Committee are asked to formally adopt the policy that permission should not be granted to taught students to take courses on a class only basis."

1. The previous policy was approved based on the Degree Regulations and Programmes of Study (DRPS) from academic session 2010-11. The current Degree Programme Regulations no longer prevent taught students from attending courses as 'Class-Only'; however the regulations do state restrictions with regard to the amount of additional credits a student may take.

Undergraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2015/16:

"35. Students may attend courses on a class-only basis (i.e. not for credit), with the agreement of the Course Organiser and the approval of the Personal Tutor. Decisions will be based on the overall load (credit and non-credit bearing) on the student, which must not exceed 160 credits.

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/15-16/regulations/UGDRPS15-16.pdf>

Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations 2015/16:

"19. Students may attend courses on a class-only basis (i.e. not for credit), with the approval of the Programme Director and, where relevant, the supervisor or Personal Tutor. Decisions will be based on the overall load (credit and non-credit bearing) on the student in the year. The additional credits must not be more than one-third of the scheduled number of credits for the year."

<http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/15-16/regulations/PGDRPS2015-16.pdf>

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2. Although the 2010-11 DRPS prevented taught students from taking courses as 'Class-Only'; the policy stated that students were allowed to attend lectures which were of interest to them, but the student would not be formally registered on the course as 'Class-Only'. From a room allocations (Timetabling) point of view, it is now essential for students to be formally registered on courses to ensure that accurate class sizes are known. This has been requested by the University's Student Administration department.

### **Proposed policy amendment:**

As per the current Degree Programme Regulations, taught students should be permitted to take 'class-only' courses up to the permitted maximum of additional credits/workload (Note that this is different for Undergraduate Taught students and for Postgraduate Taught students) with written permission from their Personal Tutor and the Course Organiser. The student will be formally registered on the course(s) with the 'Class-Only' mode of study.