

## Board of Management Learning and Teaching Committee

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| <b>Date of Meeting</b>    | <b>Tuesday 19 September 2017</b>                             |
| <b>Paper No.</b>          | <b>LTC1-J</b>  |
| <b>Agenda Item</b>        | <b>11</b>  |
| <b>Subject of Paper</b>   | <b>Academic Appeals</b>                                      |
| <b>FOISA Status</b>       | <b>Disclosable</b>   |
| <b>Primary Contact</b>    | <b>Douglas Dickson, Performance and Improvement Director</b> |
| <b>Date of production</b> | <b>September 2017</b>  |
| <b>Action</b>             | <b>For Noting</b>  |

### **1. Recommendations**

It is asked that the Committee note the contents of this report.

## 2. Purpose of report

This report identifies the academic appeals held related to delivery of qualifications during the last 5 academic years .

## 3. Context and Discussion

It is an awarding body requirement to have a defined and communicated academic appeals procedure. The College's academic appeal procedure is available to all staff on the intranet. There is a student friendly leaflet on academic appeals available on the College website and MyCity. In addition the academic appeals process is covered at student induction.

The College receives a very low number of academic appeals –

| Session      | Number   |
|--------------|----------|
| 2012/13      | 1        |
| 2013/14      | 0        |
| 2014/15      | 2        |
| 2015/16      | 1        |
| 2016/17      | 2        |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>6</b> |

Over the last 5 years all academic appeals are related to SQA Higher National qualifications and specifically to a graded unit with the qualification.

For session 2016-17 we received 2 academic appeals. The appeal received were both for graded units. One graded unit appeal has been heard at Stage 1 and the original result was upheld. The other appeal has a hearing date pending at the time of writing this report.

In all 6 appeal cases over the last 5 academic years the appeal is associated with Higher National graded units. A graded unit is a unit on a Higher National qualification with has a grade A, B or C. Grades for graded units are awarded as follows –

A= 70% – 100%

B = 60% – 69%

C = 50% – 59%

In all instances appeals are from students who have achieved either a B or C.

There are 2 main reasons presented by students when appealing –

- Direct entry to university to year 2 or 3 is based on the student achieving an A.
- The student feels the grade is not reflective of their abilities.

#### **4. Impact and implications**

The appeals procedure identifies that student should obtain feedback on their grade prior to a formal appeal. It is clear in all cases this has happened and as a result this stage averts more formal appeals.

When student's appeal it is apparent from the evidence given at the appeal hearing that there have been further layers of scrutiny put in place by teaching staff to ensure that grades awarded are reliable. This scrutiny takes place when students are at grade boundaries.

The outcomes from the College's appeals procedure are subject to SQA audit as part of their Quality Framework.