Proposed Amendment to the University’s Assessment Policies
Required for the Adoption of the Policy on Honours Programs

Existing clause 6.2 to be replaced

6.2 Classifications
Symbols used are shown in brackets after the name of the classification.
Honours First Class (H1): used to reflect outstanding scholarship.
Honours Second Class (H2A): used to reflect a high level of scholarship.
Honours Second Class (H2B): used to reflect a substantial level of scholarship.
Honours Third Class (H3): used to reflect a satisfactory level of scholarship.
Fail (F): used to reflect an unsatisfactory level of scholarship.

In recognition of significant variations in current practice between Faculties, no percentage ranges are defined for honours classifications.

Proposed new clause 6.2

6.2 Honours Assessment Criteria and Classifications
The criteria for assessment of Honours should include (but are not limited to):
• Originality and creativity of thinking or performance
• Evidence of ability to undertake independent research
• Critical awareness of scholarship within the discipline
• Breadth and depth of understanding
• Comprehensiveness of treatment of subject material
• Capacity for achieving objectives
• Accuracy and clarity of presentation

The performance for each Honours classification should exhibit the following:

Honours First Class (H1)
Sustained excellence in quality of written, oral and, where relevant, performative work, judged against stated criteria. This level of achievement should be rated as outstanding in the sense that students clearly demonstrate advanced scholarship within the discipline and a high level of ability to undertake independent research. A score in the range of 85 to 100 will be awarded.

Honours Second Class Division A (H2A)
An overall high level of scholarship judged against stated criteria, which may include excellence in some areas. Students achieving this classification will have demonstrated the ability to undertake independent research. A score in the range of 75 to 84 will be awarded.

Honours Second Class Division B (H2B)
A substantial level of scholarship judged against stated criteria. While showing some variability in performance, students achieving this classification are assessed as competent within the discipline. A score in the range of 65 to 74 will be awarded.
Honours Third Class (H3)
A satisfactory level of scholarship judged against stated criteria. Students achieving this classification are seen as having met the minimum requirements for the award. A score in the range of 50 to 64 will be awarded.

Fail
An unsatisfactory level of scholarship judged against stated criteria. Students awarded this classification are seen as not having met the minimum requirements for the award. A score in the range of 0 to 49 will be awarded.
Proposed Amendment to the Policy on Course and Topic Evaluation, Monitoring and Review following the adoption of the Policy on Honours Programs

Clause 8.9 of the draft Policy on Honours Programs refers to external moderation and indicates that the results of moderation will be considered during course reviews. The following amendment (shown in italics) to the Policy on Course and Topic Evaluation, Monitoring and Review is proposed to make provision for this:

2.3.1 A course review will consider and report on:

- the place of the course within the University’s academic offerings and its contribution to strategic objectives;
- the overall quality of the course, its ongoing relevance and viability;
- the aims and objectives of the course and whether these remain appropriate;
- the relationship of the course with other courses;
- student demand, progress rates and attrition rates;
- the academic content and structure of the course;
- teaching and learning methods, assessment practices and modes of delivery, and their relationships with course aims and expected learning outcomes;
- the results of external moderation of Honours assessment, in accordance with the Policy on Honours Programs;
- any significant resource issues arising from continuing to offer the course or from proposed new developments;
- the operation and success of the course taking account of community expectations, and feedback from professional associations, employers, students and graduates, and where appropriate, the Course Advisory Committee.