**Handling of Recommendations Notwithstanding Regulations**

Members of the Quality and Standards Committee may be asked to approve proposed actions ‘notwithstanding regulations’, i.e. actions that are not in accordance with the provisions of the Quality Manual. Such approval may be given where the member of the Quality and Standards Committee considers the proposed action to be appropriate in all the circumstances of the case. In reaching this determination, the following general guidance is offered:

1. It is for the relevant School, Department or Division to describe the circumstances of the case and to propose that action be taken notwithstanding regulations.

2. Whether or not it is appropriate for action notwithstanding the regulations to be approved should be determined according to all the circumstances of the individual case.

3. The circumstances of the case are reviewed ‘in the round’, rather than individually.

4. Demonstrating features which suggest the student under consideration is likely to benefit from the approval of the action may support the case that it is appropriate for the proposed action to be approved.

5. Demonstrating features which suggest that the student under consideration is unlikely to benefit from the approval of the action is likely to weaken the case that it is appropriate for the proposed action to be approved.

6. Demonstrating features which suggest that the University will suffer a detriment from the approval of the action (eg Financial, staff time, other resources, reputation) may be relevant to the question of whether it is appropriate for the proposed action to be approved, but may not be conclusive.

The following evidence should be taken into consideration:

1. The regulations in question and the context in which it applies to a cohort of students.

2. The opportunity and support offered to the student and the cohort to comply with the regulation over time.

3. Submissions made in mitigation by the student in writing.

4. Evidence of the diligence with which the student took the opportunities offered to comply with the regulations over time and as compared to the cohort.

5. The overall situation of the student based upon review of their record and the likely benefit to the student were an exception to the regulations to be made.