Notice by the General Board

Response to the marking and assessment boycott

22 June 2023

In the last few weeks, the General Board has received queries from a number of Chairs of Examiners, and their equivalents, about their options where their students have a complete sets of marks but, due to the marking and assessment boycott, some Examiners may not attend the final Examiners' meeting. After much reflection, the General Board has agreed to use, on a case-by-case basis and applying specific limited criteria, its existing ability under Regulation 1 of the Ordinance for the Approval of Class-lists (Statutes and Ordinances, p. 258) to allow the final meeting of the Examiners to take place without all Examiners being present.

The Board expects this measure to enable approximately 150 students who might otherwise have been affected by the boycott to obtain their qualifications over the summer. It is worth emphasising that this measure will only apply in some subjects and where every piece of a student’s work has been marked, so it will not help the vast majority of students. All work will have been fully assessed and there will be no compromise to academic standards. This action is therefore consistent with the outcome of the recent Regent House ballots (Reporter, 6700, 2022–23, p. 667).

The Board has been monitoring developments on the industrial action, with the hope of progress towards a negotiated outcome, but this is looking unlikely in time for these students. In light of this, the Board has responded to these requests from Chairs of Examiners, to exercise this ability to help those students most in need. This, after all, is the group of students whose university experience has already been so severely affected in recent years. The Board considers this to be a proportionate response which reflects the scale of the impact on students who cannot otherwise obtain their qualifications.

Chairs of Examiners (and their equivalents) and Chairs of Faculty Boards will be contacted directly with information about how to make a formal request to the General Board.