

**Item 7**  
**Education Committee**  
**23 April 2009**

**REPORT OF THE GDC INSPECTOR ON THE  
EXAMINATION BOARD OF THE BSc (Hons) &  
FOUNDATION DEGREE IN DENTAL  
TECHNOLOGY DELIVERED AT UNIVERSITY OF  
WALES INSTITUTE, CARDIFF (UWIC)**

**17 JUNE 2008**

**REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR**

**MR M J FUGILL**

## Overview

Reviews of students are fair and consistent in approach. There is adequate allowance for input from external examiners whose feedback is taken on board. Areas for improvement include ensuring there is a formal process of remediation for failing candidates and reducing the capacity for errors to be made in totalising overall module grades.

## Introduction

1. As part of its duty to protect patients and promote high standards, the GDC monitors the education of dental students and dental care professionals (DCPs) at institutions whose qualifications are approved by the GDC. The aim is to ensure that these institutions provide high-quality learning opportunities and experiences and that students who obtain a qualification would be suitable for registration with the GDC.
2. This report sets out the findings of an inspection visit to UWIC Examination Board meeting held on 17 June 2008. The report highlights areas of good practice, but also draws attention to areas where issues of improvement and development need to be addressed.
3. A separate report covers the programme inspection which took place on 23 January 2008.

## The Examination Board

4. The Examination Board meeting was attended by the Programme director, Programme teachers and a representative of the UWIC Registry. An external examiner was also present.
5. The meeting covered years one to three of both the BSc and Foundation Degree programmes. Each student was reviewed fairly. Decisions were based on cumulative assessment totals except for students with mitigating circumstances. Assessment totals were calculated for each module undertaken. Each module contained multiple assessments, usually including both written and practical assessments.
6. There were four possible outcomes for the review of each student:
  - Pass, proceed or qualify on successful completion of all modules
  - Pass after compensation either between assessments within a module, or occasionally between modules
  - Pass due to mitigating circumstances
  - Resit one or more module(s)
7. Resits were timetabled for the end of August and the beginning of September. There appeared to be no formal programme for remediation for candidates required to resit. However, these students were advised to contact their personal tutors.
8. The rules for compensation between assessments and modules appeared to be complex. Compensation between components of a module was allowable as long as

the overall score for the module was greater than 40%. The UWIC exam regulations allow compensation between modules, though dental technology programmes restrict this for certain core modules which must be passed individually. The programme report drew attention to the confusion these complex rules had caused for students. There was some concern that the compensation policy could potentially allow a student to fail multiple modules, yet still progress or graduate. The designated core modules did reduce this possibility. However, it would still be possible for a student to progress having failed some modules.

9. The external examiner was present for the duration of the meeting and was given the opportunity to provide feedback on the process which was very positive overall. The external examiner was pleased that previous recommendations made had been taken on board.
10. It was noted that some errors had been made on the spreadsheet being used to totalise module marks. These errors, however, had been quickly spotted during the Examination Board meeting and rectified. Further, none of the errors would have resulted in changing a student's result from fail to pass or vice versa.
11. It was clear that the capabilities and limitations of the students were well known to those present since candidates were discussed in a personal way. Where possible, this should be minimised and efforts made to discuss candidates in an anonymous manner.

### **Recommendations**

- Consideration should be given to the setting up of formal remediation sessions for candidates required to resit. (8)
- Systems should be introduced to ensure that the possibility of errors occurring in the recording of marks on spreadsheets is reduced or eliminated. (11)
- Consideration should be given as to how the anonymity of candidates during discussions can be maintained. (12)

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Sirs

**Re: GDC Inspection Report 17.06.08**

Thank you for sending us the above report. Having read through it, we have no factual corrections or observations that we would like to make.  
The recommendations following the examination board report are either being or have been addressed as part of UWICs reorganization.

Yours sincerely

Jeffrey Lewis  
Head of Centre for Dental Technology  
UWIC