**Changes to Student Facing Policies – for 2025/26**

In a number of policies, the following has been added:

Rebuttal presumption added to Freedom of Speech section in relation to academic activities and discussions, with special considerations as outlined by OfS guidance.

Mention of single source document for sexual violence and harassment, and that both Freedom of Speech Code of Conduct and that in the event of any disparity between this policy and the single source of information regarding Sexual Misconduct, the latter will take precedence.

**ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

In terms of the scope of attendance monitoring, in addition to standard teaching activities such as seminars, lectures, and workshops, the policy now explicitly includes supervision for dissertations, research activities, and project work.

Absences

· The student absence notification procedure has been enhanced to include clearer, more detailed instructions for students on how and when to report absences. Guidance will be provided via the Student Zone webpages, outlining who to contact, how to notify them (typically via email), and when notifications should be made.

· The reference to ‘approved absence’ has been removed, as it cannot be consistently monitored. This reflects current practice of the more holistic and data-led approach to monitoring student engagement.

· Students are expected to not miss more than two weeks of teaching per semester. This aligns with current practice, where we initiate outreach when a student has missed two weeks of teaching. This replaces the previous threshold of three absences per module per semester, which proved difficult to monitor consistently and effectively. The tone now treats these as expectations. This now reflects our practice of supporting and reengaging students after absences.

· A line has been added to say that specific course structures or those on Student visa may be subject to stricter attendance and engagement requirements.

· Added a line regarding the repercussions of ‘code-sharing’, i.e. registering attendance when absent. Students would be sent a formal attendance warning.

· In terms of engagement, we have added a line that states that students on a visa are monitored in line with the Sponsor Compliance Procedures and Processes document

Exemptions

· The statement indicating that the decision to withdraw Student visa sponsorship is final has been removed. Students on a Student visa now have the right to appeal such decisions, and the policy has been updated to reflect this change in process.