**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.

**STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY**

Due to the introduction of OfS Condition E6 and following review of the sector’s trajectory towards increased regulatory intervention in this area, significant changes to the Student Conduct have been made to align with lawful speech and preventions regarding harassment.

Summary of changes:

Main changes include:

• A review of guiding principles to reflex fairness of investigation for both Responding and Reporting Parties, with emphasis on signposting to support and due process.

• An extensive rewording to align with OfS B conditions, OIA Good Practice.

• Inclusion of UUK advisory guidance regarding complaints relating to allegations of sexual misconduct.

• Scope defined so parameters of investigation are clear, including mention of what actions would apply if the allegation related to an applicant without offer, a graduand and alumni through the lens of safeguarding.

• Inclusion of definitions of harassment from Protection from Harassment Act 1998 and Equality Act 2010. Also, the test of other legislation is applied, such as Public Order Act 1986 (section 5) and other relevant legislation is applied to help staff and students to understand, in implementation and practicality what would be considered lawful speech, or misconduct, to ensure safety on campus is still maintained.