6. FORMAL WORKING GROUPS OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Report of Working Group on PGRs and Quality Assurance

The Committee **CONSIDERED** revisions to the University's Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes as set out in paper DSC/15/03.

Mr M Moon **REPORTED** that the Working Group on Quality Assurance matters relating to PGR students had recently met and reviewed the University's Code of Practice for Research Degree Programmes against recently issued QAA guidance. The recommended revisions to the Code of Practice were set out in paper DSC/15/03, and these included two key areas: the removal of the commitment to offer a mock viva, and changes to the requirement for an Annual Report from Schools on their review of PGRs.

Professor N Till **NOTED** that in his view the requirement to offer a mock viva (not necessarily to hold it) should be retained.

The Committee **AGREED** that the requirement to offer a mock viva should be changed to a generic requirement to provide appropriate support for viva preparation, but that the requirement should include a non-exhaustive list of examples of the types of support to be offered, including a mock viva amongst these.

Mr M Moon **REPORTED** that it was proposed to alter the requirement for a written Annual Report from each School on their annual review of doctoral students. This would be replaced by an oral report from each School at the Committee.

The Chair proposed, and the Committee **AGREED**, that alongside the oral report the Committee should receive the relevant minute(s) addressing annual review of doctoral students from the relevant School committee, in order to maintain an audit trail whilst reducing burden. If the Doctoral School Committee was in any respect unsatisfied with the School committee minute(s), a written report addressing specific concerns would be requested.

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed revisions subject to the amendments indicated.