

Poor Academic Practice notifications (PAPs)

Dr Mark Sergeant

Department of Psychology

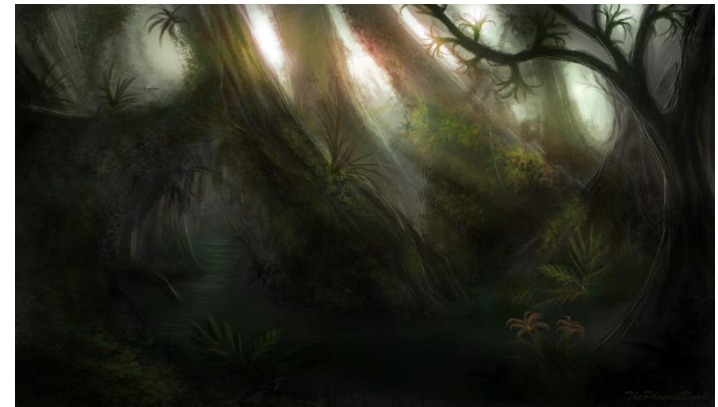
**School of Social Sciences Academic Integrity
(Academic Irregularities) coordinator**

Mission statement for AIs

- Two possible strategies – rule compliance and academic integrity
- Rule compliance strategies:
 - Strong focus on discipline
 - High costs for problematic behaviour
 - Very limited focus on development or pedagogy
 - Bureaucratic approach
 - Very mixed evidence on effectiveness
 - Staff more hesitant to enact due to penalties for students
- Academic integrity strategies:
 - Errors are seen as part of pedagogic development
 - Student-focused approach
 - Strong discipline for repeated issues

The Murky Borderland

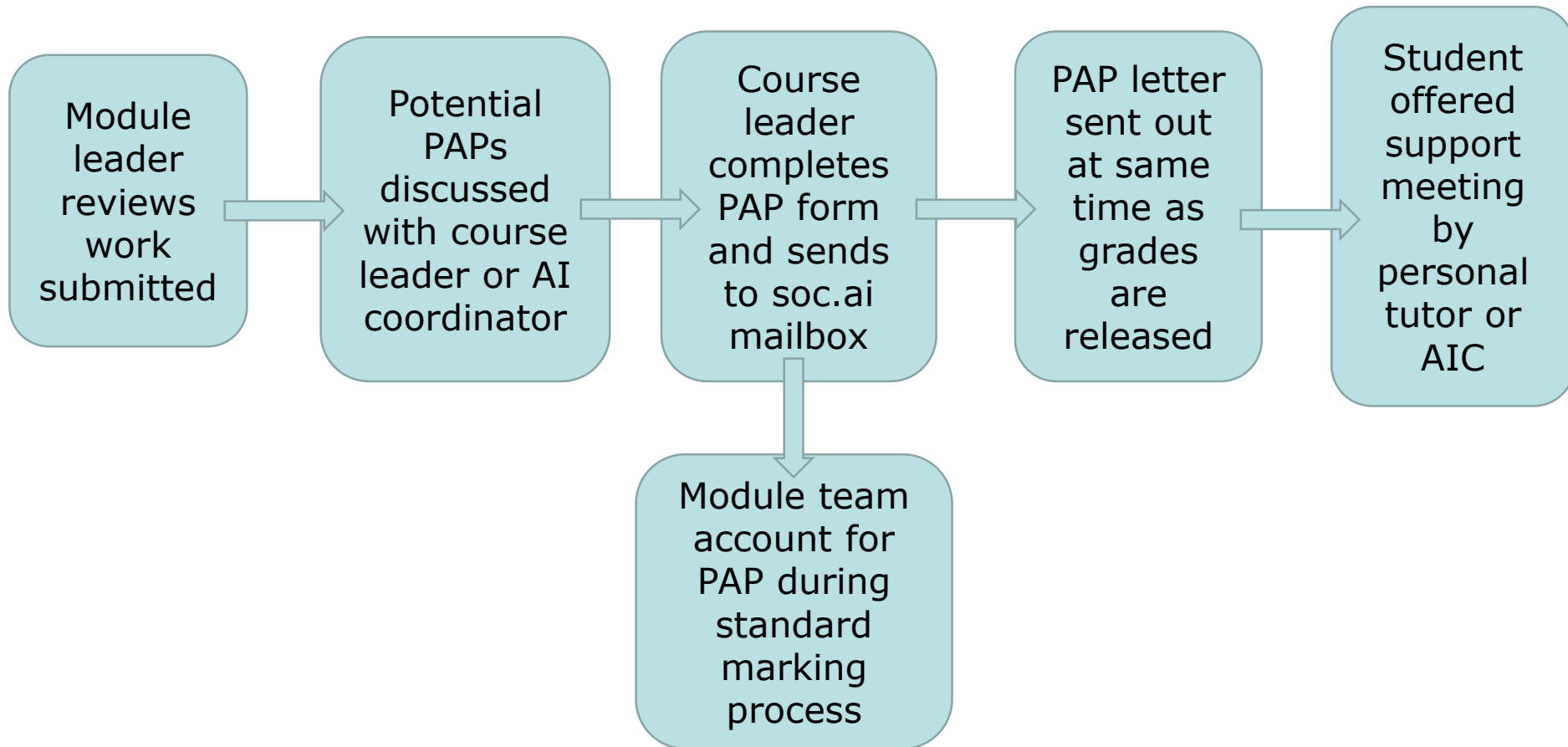
- The academic integrity policies and at many HEIs are focused on a binary model
 - work is problematic or non-problematic
- This approach ignores the 'murky borderland':
 - Some students are unaware of UK assessment conventions
 - Some students have yet to develop appropriate academic skills
 - Some students have been encouraged to cheat at pre-HE levels of education
- Many Departments had developed informal processes...



Poor Academic Practice (PAPs) Notifications

- Poor Academic Practice (PAPs) Notifications
 - Newly introduced in 2017-2018
 - 111 PAPs issued during 2017-2018 (primarily Psychology and Education)
- What is a PAP?
 - The student demonstrates a lack of understanding of scholarly practice and appropriate academic representation.
 - Can apply to all levels of study – particularly level 4 and early stages of level 7
 - Case is not progressed to SAIPs but can be outcome from a SAIP
- Record kept of PAPs
 - Maximum of 2 PAPs issued (across entire duration of course)
 - Further issues automatically elevated to SAIP

What is the process for PAPs?



PAP usage across NTU during 2017-2018

	AAH	AADH	NLS	SSS (including NIE)	SST	ARES	NBS
How many PAPs were issued from your School in 2017/18?	8	2	5	111	62	13	10
How many of these PAPs went to the Appeal stage?	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
How many students had more than one PAP?	1	0	0	6	1 *	2	0

*(2 concurrent instances)

52% of PAPs issued by SSS

34% of NTU PAPs issued by Psychology

Around 130 PAPs issued this year so far (around 50 SAIPs)

Poor Academic Practice (PAPs) Notifications

- Course leader prepares PAP submission form
 - Liaises with relevant module team to capture detail
 - Accompanied by appropriate evidence (e.g., Turnitin report)
 - PAP paperwork sent out by School Office
 - Appeals handled by HoD
- PAP accounted for during marking process
 - Issues interpreted in light of assessment criteria / grading matrix
 - Avoids arbitrary / subjective penalties
 - It is possible for a submission to fail due to a PAP
- Strong focus on development:
 - Student directed towards appropriate support
 - First PAP results in an invitation to discuss the issues
 - Second PAP results in a requirement to discuss the issues

Successes in Psychology

- Piloted use of PAPs during 2017-2018
 - Particular focus on level 4 students
 - Reduction of SAIP cases by 25% (compared to typical rates)
 - Increase in SAIPs being upheld (filtering out more 'borderline' cases)
- Strong focus on student support and skill development
 - Low recidivism after PAPs issued (>10% of students)
 - Information released very quickly (unlike SAIPs)
 - Good impact / take up from students due to links with marking process
 - Efficient system developed for academic and admin staff
- Standardised procedure for all marking
 - Raised with students during academic tutorials
 - No appeals upheld

Take home messages

- PAPs are efficient and effective for developing academic integrity
- Students seem receptive to this approach
- Staff have been receptive to the system

Thank you for your time

Any questions?

mark.sergeant@ntu.ac.uk