

UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

Paper No ASQEC/21/8

ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND QUALITY ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

11 March 2021

Agenda Item 11

COVER SHEET

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FORUM
(27 January 2021)

Presenter: Ms C Reid

To consider the report.

REPORT FROM THE MEETING OF THE COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FORUM (27 January 2021)

1. ONLINE ADMISSIONS AND ENROLMENTS FEEDBACK AND REVIEW

The Chair said that the OLA and OLE processes for 2020/21 admissions and enrolments had worked extremely well, although there were a number of minor issues identified which need to be addressed. Issues identified include:

- Some returning students are completing OLA again
- Completed application forms are not being submitted
- Incorrect or incomplete evidence being uploaded
- Students coded P3 last year were not able to add the module
- Some students are not selecting the correct programme code
- The terminology used by Ulster University and Colleges differs which leads to confusion

HE Co-ordinators were reminded that all APL applications must be signed off by them and approved by the FPM. After the closing date students cannot access OLA. Late enrolments will incur a fee and should be flagged to the relevant FPM.

The Chair informed that rather than providing Class Lists, as at present, 2/3 times a week during OLA the University is planning to digitise these and make them accessible via SharePoint. This will provide more timely and accurate admissions information.

HE Co-ordinators requested that, where possible, face to face training on OLA and OLE be provided. They also asked if a set of FAQs could be provided. It was acknowledged that at this stage it will not be possible to import data from the College EBS directly onto the University's OLA and OLE systems.

The following start and end dates for OLA and OLE were provided:

- OLA opens on 23 August 2021 and closes on 24 September 2021
- OLE opens on 8 September 2021 and closes on 15 October 2021
- Finance deadline 27 October 2021

It was agreed that: i) HE Co-ordinators provide QE with dates suitable for training and staff requiring training;
ii) the University provide a set of FAQs.

2. DIGITISATION OF CRS AND MARKS UPLOAD

The Chair informed that the University is proposing to move from the manual completion of Course Results Sheets (CRS) in Colleges and at the Exams office in the University to a digitalised system of recording and uploading marks. A pilot is underway in BMC this year where one programme will electronically record marks on the CRS and upload same onto the University's system.

It is hoped that the electronic recording and transferring of marks will reduce the administrative burden on College and University staff while at the same time reducing human error. If the pilot is successful it is planned to roll out the digitisation of CRS across all partners next academic year.

In the future it may be possible to export data from the College EBS system directly onto Ulster's systems.

3. WORK-BASED LEARNING

The Chair provided members with an update on WBL and the uptake of the AB award.

A total of 9 CA3s were received from Colleges wishing to offer the AB as an exit award for those FD students unable to find suitable WBL opportunities. Colleges were commended for their hard work and effort in finding innovative and creative ways of securing opportunities for students to meet the learning outcomes for the WBL module.

The Chair reminded members that under University regulations transfers between modules (i.e., WBL and PBL) is permissible within the first 3 weeks of the semester of study only. Therefore if, within this time period, a student on the PBL (AB exit) route acquires a WBL place they can then transfer from the PBL module to the WBL module and be considered for the FdSc award.

Any transfer would also be contingent on any College team ensuring that the "front-loaded" teaching aligned to the module they transfer to, is subsequently covered by the student.

HE Co-ordinators were also reminded that students have up to 28 weeks to complete their WBL and still be considered at the August Exam Board.

4. CONTINUOUS ASSURANCE OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT (CAQE)

Members received a paper on the outcomes from the 2019/20 CAQE.

Members noted that Faculties had reviewed the quantitative and qualitative data available and requested that Course Teams provide Action Plans for 37 programmes. When analysing the data Faculties took cognisance of the unprecedented arrangements for the delivery and assessment of semester 2 modules. Colleges were asked to reflect upon the following:

- High levels of attrition in Years 1 and 2
- High level of non-returners
- Poor first-sit outcomes
- Poor Success 2 outcomes

Completed Action Plans were received for all 37 programmes. Faculties reviewed the Action Plans and no further action being required at this stage. FPMs will continue to monitor these programmes.

In the paper members were reminded of the need for Course Teams to respond to the External Examiner Report and share the report and response with students. Evidence of this must be provided in the minutes of SSCC meetings.

5. MARKETING

Members received a paper on current marketing activity being undertaken by the University.

In December the University ran three online webinars aimed at Access students across the 6 colleges covering courses run at each of our campuses. Although registration for each of the days were very healthy the numbers that attended on each day were not so good.

During December the University invited the Principals and Directors of Curriculum to meetings chaired by the Provosts. Topics covered included how the University has responded to COVID, support for our students, our new Belfast campus development and CPD opportunities through our Education team. Each college was invited to their own individual session to give them a chance not only to discuss specific issues but also give them the opportunity to share ideas and resources. Four out of the 6 colleges responded, and it is hoped to hold follow-up sessions in March.

The University is engaging with schools and colleges to find out about their future events and their willingness to have us visit their school or college to deliver our Ulster presentation.

Hugh Deighan