ULSTER UNIVERSITY **CPF/21/03**

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FORUM **Agenda Item: 11**

27 January 2021

CONTINUOUS ASSURANCE OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT (CAQE)

To receive a report on Continuous Assurance of Quality Enhancement (CAQE).

ACTION:

For information.

**CONTINUOUS ASSURANCE OF QUALITY ENHANCEMENT (COLL. PROVISION) 2019/20**

1.INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on 4 June 2020 the University’s Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee (ASQEC) approved the recommendation that the pilot Continuous Assurance of Quality Enhancement (CAQE) process for collaborative activity be adopted in full for the 2019/20 academic year.

Committee also agreed that the performance benchmarks remain the same as that agreed for the 2018/19 review. As such the benchmarks used in 2019/20 were as follows:

Cohort size <10

Attrition: Access Programmes 20%

Foundation degrees 10%

Success 2: Access Programmes 70% progression

Foundation degrees (Year 1) 75% progression

Foundation degrees (Year 2) 80% progression

As well as looking at performance date Faculties also took into consideration the following quality assurance indicators:

* External Examiner reports
* FPM reports
* PSRB reports
* Minutes of Staff Student Consultative Committee meetings
* Minutes of Course Committee meetings
* CA3s
* Re-validation outcomes
* NSS outcomes

2. OUTCOMES FROM THE 2019/20 REVIEW

Quality Enhancement (QE) provided Faculties with performance data for all approved validated programmes of study offered in partner institutions. This included programmes withdrawn but with students still registered on them. Outcentre programmes are not included within CAQE (Coll. Provision) as they are considered as part of the University’s internal CAQE review.

Faculties 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 unprecedent 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. Faculty Partnership Managers (FPMS) will continue to monitor these programmes.

Members are 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 Staff/Student Consultative Committee meetings. The HE Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring that minutes of Course Committee and Staff/Student Consultative Committee meetings are routinely forwarded to the FPM.

A report on the outcomes from the 2019/20 CAQE (Coll. Provision) review will be consider at the March meeting of the Academic Standards and Quality Enhancement Committee.

Hugh Deighan