

SCONUL Working Group on Quality Assurance

Remit:

On behalf of SCONUL, UCISA and SCHOMS, to respond to the ongoing need for engagement with QAA and other organisations involved in quality and maintenance of standards in HE, both in regard to advocacy and to practical help/advice to members.

- Liaise closely with the QAA and other organisations responsible for the quality and standards of higher education provision, in order
 - to ensure that library and ICT and media services are seen as important elements of the student learning experience in any review of academic quality
 - to help ensure that standards of library, ICT and other technical provision are maintained and enhanced
 - to help promote the use of high quality information for student learning
- Make constructive proposals for a consistent approach to library, ICT and other technical services in the quality procedures of the QAA and other appropriate organisations, including higher education institutions themselves, in particular:
 - to ensure that appropriate emphasis is placed on effective liaison between academic staff and library, ICT and media services
 - to encourage auditors and reviewers to focus on quality processes and mechanisms as well as resources
 - to influence the training of auditors and reviewers so that they can understand the need for the involvement of library, ICT and media services in quality procedures
- Review SCONUL, UCISA and SCHOMS members' experience of quality procedures
- Disseminate information on quality developments and examples of best practice to SCONUL, UCISA and SCHOMS members
- Maintain a good relationship with and collaborate where appropriate with the SCONUL Working Group on Performance Improvement
- Inform and advise SCONUL Representatives on behalf of the Executive Board on quality issues in order to stimulate future policy and strategic development

Key Strategic Targets:

- To raise the profile of higher education and national libraries.
- To promote the sharing and development of good practice.
- To influence policy makers and encourage debate.

	Objectives for 2010/11	SMART deliverables	Progress
1	Monitor and respond to developments related to the implementation of the QAA quality procedures, including specific new approaches in Scotland and Wales, the audit of HE in FE and the inclusion of E-Learning in all the QAA systems	Chair to meet QAA representative and update them on the Group's activities twice a year.	Reports provided to Group meetings.
		Engage proactively with QAA reviews of audit process and academic infrastructure.	QAA in England will welcome engagement with SCONUL on the new audit methodology that concentrates on the student experience. Engagement will also be sought on the review of the academic infrastructure. (cf Chair's meeting with QAA May 2010).
		Create toolkit for engagement with institutional audit in Scotland and Wales.	Short term working group established under SCURL in Scotland to develop toolkit. Scottish representative will liaise with Welsh representative to establish whether single toolkit can be used for both environments.
2	Collaborate with the SCONUL Working Group on Performance Improvement on further development of the NSS, joint work on internal quality processes, quality reviews etc.	Together with WGPI, set up dialogue with HEFCE agency and suggest possible changes to NSS.	Julie Berry taking over from Ann Mathie as liaison in this area from summer 2010.
		Explore other areas of potential collaboration.	
3	Collaborate with the NHS Library & Knowledge Development Network on quality assurance processes for NHS funded HE programmes	Develop mechanisms through which the SCONUL Quality Group (with the CILIP/SCONUL Health Strategy Group) and the Network can be mutually supportive and develop joint approaches to quality assurance matters	Information received from Joint Health Strategy Group on the National Service Framework for health libraries. Group will continue to monitor sector and consider future action.

4	Develop resources available for SCONUL/UCISA/SCHOMS members via the Group's web pages so as to provide members with a range of resources and information to support their input to quality assurance processes in their own institutions	Obtain and make available commentaries on members' experiences of Institutional Audit in practice.	Group will obtain lists of audits from QAA and target relevant institutions for reports.
		Obtain and make available examples of input by members to institution and discipline self evaluation documents and to institutional internal quality processes.	Group will seek to obtain examples of SEDs from departmental review (ie the lower level) and collate on website.
		Disseminate information to SCONUL / UCISA / SCHOMS members on quality developments.	Group will raise with SCONUL cross-portal access to parts of the website for partner bodies.
		Links to relevant information on professional body websites to be developed further.	www.sconul.ac.uk/reviews/groups/quality_assurance/links.html Group will identify and add links to other relevant bodies.
		Set up register of contacts with experience of and expertise in QA activity who are willing to advise SCONUL/UCISA/SCHOMS members informally.	Form of register to be discussed with SCONUL Secretariat and made available on web site. Liaison with John Lancaster, responsible for the development of the new site.
		Developments in both countries to be investigated further and a report produced, plus any other international connections.	Links made with REBIUN, the Spanish University Librarians organisation. Chair contacted IFLA who don't have a group – will raise under academic section of IFLA to see if grouping should be established.

		<p>Liaise with Performance Improvement group to discuss useful joint project and use VAMP project to disseminate member accounts of QAA audit</p>	<p>WGPI have added a QA tab to the Performance Portal to enable relevant WGQA material to be included. Now requiring introductions to Guidelines for Audit and members accounts of Audit.</p> <p>VAMP website being updated and rethinking portal.</p>
		<p>UCISA and SCHOMS representatives to inform their respective organizations of potential joint activity and for the Working Group to consider a joint project</p>	
5	<p>Track relevant quality developments in HE quality assurance overseas, e.g. in Australia and South Africa, so as to gain a greater understanding of quality assurance processes overseas which could assist in the consideration of learning resources during UK HE audits and reviews</p>	<p>Paul Jeorrett to pursue as a result of his experience in setting up a FD in Librarianship at Glyndwyr University</p>	<p>PJ agreed to report to Group and set up meeting with appropriate CILIP officers.</p>
6	<p>Investigate other professional bodies' requirements, links to existing guidance and creating new guidance.</p>	<p>Create list of professional bodies that may be relevant and obtain lists of audit requirements.</p>	
		<p>Approach OFSTED regarding the operation of Teacher Training inspections in HE and whether there was a need to consider the inclusion of learning resources in the process</p>	

		Approach to CILIP as an accrediting body with a particular professional interest to the group with a view to encouraging a more appropriate approach for Higher Education in line with other similar bodies	
7	Raise awareness of the work of the Group to ensure that resources are utilised fully and work is not duplicated elsewhere.	Use SCONUL email list, website and events to raise awareness.	Participated in poster session at SCONUL 2010 Conference.
		Approach other regional and national groups to ensure awareness and engagement.	Chair in contact with M25 Group. Scottish representative reporting regularly to SCURL, Welsh representative to WHELP.