

SCONUL WORKING GROUP ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

Minutes of Meeting held on 21 October 2008 at the SCONUL Secretariat

Present:

Scott Robertson - University of Chichester (Chair)
Michael Breaks - Heriot-Watt University (Secretary)
Toni Kelly – University of Birmingham (SCHOMS)
Paul Jeorrett – Glyndwr University
Helen Fletcher – Buckinghamshire New University (UCISA)
Carole Pickaver (University of Kent)

Apologies:

Ann Mathie – University of Gloucestershire

Copies:

Lindsay Da Silva – University of Chichester

1. **Welcome**

The Chair welcomed Toni Kelly (SCHOMS) and Carol Pickaver (University of Kent) to their first meeting.

2. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 16 May 2008**

The Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

Minute 5: It was agreed to request the addition of a tab 'Quality Assurance' to the PI portal.

Action: Scott Robertson

Minute 10: This HEFCE-funded project would be of interest to the QAA and would be drawn to their attention.

Action: Scott Robertson and Helen Fletcher

4. **National Student Survey & PI Working Groups**

A survey of SCONUL members on the effectiveness of the NSS had been conducted by the PI Group, who had expressed the view that there was insufficient support for change to warrant taking the issue further. It was agreed to jointly write up a report with the PI Group for HEFCE, and SR might discuss further the issue of SCONUL taking a position on the wording of the Library statement.

Action: Scott Robertson

5. **QAA Developments**

A written report was tabled (see the 'Papers for SCONUL members' section on the web site). It was clear in the discussions with QAA that an Aide Memoir for Welsh and Scottish auditors on how auditors should examine the role of libraries might be well-received by QAA and this would form an agenda item at the next meetings of WHELF and SCURL.

Action: Michael Breaks and Paul Jeorrett

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6. **Welsh Quality Matters**

A new Institutional Review Consultation is taking place in which the Student Experience is central to the audit. The NSS results will form part of an audit.

7. **Scottish Quality Matters**

A revised scheme (SFC/30/2008) is in place which emphasizes the important role of support services in determining the quality of the student learning experience.

8. **NHS National Service Framework for Health Libraries**

The Committee noted the response of the Health Strategy Group to the NHS National Service Framework for Health Libraries.

9. **OFSTED**

There was a need to investigate the quality role of OFSTED in assessing teacher training in HEIs in relation to Library and other learning resources, and assess the need of opening a dialogue with them.

Action: Scott Robertson

10. **SCONUL Executive Board Planning**

The Chair reported on the annual SCONUL Planning meeting held in August at which the following issues were identified:

Need to work collaboratively with relevant bodies, especially JISC.
Increased advocacy role and increased visibility of SCONUL.
Increase activity to support learning and teaching.

11. **Group Web Site**

The Chair would try and increase the number of reports from SCONUL members on audits for the web site.

The National Youth Agency (www.nya.org.uk) would be added to the web site.

Action: Michael Breaks

12. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held in April/May 2009.