

SCONUL WORKING GROUP ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

QAA

The Group's regular dialogue with the QAA continues to be central to its advocacy and information role as it:

- Develops the Agency's awareness of the role of the Library and other central services in the support of learning, teaching and research and, in particular, e-learning;
- Provides information to the Group in changes to Enhancement-Led Institutional Review in Scotland, Institutional Review in Wales and Institutional Audit in England and Northern Ireland, especially in the growing involvement of students and the greater focus on the student experience;
- Encourages the Agency to accept the value of more SCONUL guidelines relating to ELIR and Institutional Review to be worked on by members of the Group in liaison with SCURL and WHELP;
- Persuades the Agency of the future value of an aide-memoire to their auditors and reviewers to advise them on approaches to the quality assurance of Library, IT and other central services, thus opening up a further opportunity for the Group to develop this in liaison with the QAA.

Collaboration with Working Group on Performance Improvement

A joint working party from both groups has been set up to respond to the survey on SCONUL members' views on the NSS and to prepare an approach to HEFCE on ways of improving the effectiveness of the NSS as a tool for the measurement of student responses to learning resources.

The WGPI has provided a platform on the Performance Portal for the further dissemination of the Guidelines on Institutional Audit and accounts of members' experience of QAA activity.

CILIP

One member of the Group, Paul Jeorrett, has developed a Foundation Degree course in Librarianship and Information Studies and is working with CILIP as a professional accreditation body, reporting back on the experience and assisting CILIP's awareness of FDs as appropriate academic programmes to accredit.

Register of QA Experience

The group has embarked on the development of a register of members of SCONUL and its partner organisations, UCISA and SCHOMS, who have experience of and are interested in external QA activity and would be willing to advise and assist others from all three organisations. Ways are being sought to enable appropriate access to parts of the SCONUL web site for those organisations.

Experience of Institutional Audit

SCONUL members who have experienced QAA events and feel able to share this for benefit of others are being encouraged to do so on the Group's web pages.

Collaboration with UCISA and SCHOMS

Because the Working Group is a collaborative one with UCISA and SCHOMS, it continues to seek effective ways of sharing expertise and providing mutual advice on QA matters.

Membership Changes

Some notable changes have been made to the membership of the group during 2009. The longstanding Secretary of the Group, Michael Breaks, retired after playing a number of roles in SCONUL for many years. He has been replaced as Scottish representative and Secretary by Gordon Hunt from the University of the West of Scotland. The Chair, Scott Robertson, who has been in the Group since 1994, has also resigned. The Executive Board has approved Carole Pickaver as the new Chair.

Scott Robertson
Chair