

SCONUL Working Group on Quality Assurance

Progress Report, 2006

Remit:

On behalf of SCONUL and UCISA to respond to the ongoing need for engagement with QAA and other organisations 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 services are seen as an important element of the student learning experience in any review of academic quality
 - to help ensure that standards of library and ICT provision are maintained and improved
 - to help promote the use of high quality information for student learning
- Make constructive proposals for a consistent approach to library and ICT 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 and ICT 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 and ICT services in quality procedures
- Review SCONUL and UCISA members' experience of quality procedures
- Disseminate information on quality developments and examples of best practice to SCONUL and UCISA members
- Maintain a good relationship and to 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

Strategic and contextual alignment	Objectives for 2006	SMART deliverables	Progress
<p>To raise the profile of higher education and national libraries</p> <p>To influence policy makers and encourage debate</p> <p>To promote the sharing and development of good practice</p>	<p>1) Monitor and respond to developments related to the implementation of the QAA quality procedures, including specific developments in Scotland and Wales</p> <p>2) Track developments with National Student Satisfaction Survey</p> <p>3) Collaborate with the NHS Library & Knowledge Development Network on quality assurance processes for NHS funded HE programmes</p>	<p>1) Receive update on QAA plans and developments and update QAA representative on the Group's activities.</p> <p>2) Provide summary report in 2006</p> <p>3) Develop mechanisms through which the SCONUL Quality Group (with the SCONUL Health Strategy Group) and the Network can be mutually supportive and develop joint approaches to quality assurance matters</p>	<p>Chair of Working Group met with Nicola Channon, QAA, and had regular email correspondence throughout the year.</p> <p>Outcomes monitored. Agreed to consult with SCONUL, UCISA and SCHOMS members with a view to lobbying HEFCE about the learning resources questions in the survey.</p> <p>General situation monitored through QAA liaison.</p>

	<p>4) Develop resources available for SCONUL/UCISA 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</p> <p>5) Track relevant quality developments in HE quality assurance overseas, e.g. in Australia 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>4) Obtain details of SCONUL / UCISA members' experiences of Institutional Audit (and Institutional Review) in practice including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commentaries on members' experiences of Institutional Audit in practice (particularly experiences in Scotland and Wales and experiences relating to Collaborative Audit) • Links to Institutional Audit reports • Examples of input by members to institution and discipline self evaluation documents and to institutional internal quality processes • Disseminate information to SCONUL / UCISA members on quality developments • Links to relevant information on professional body websites to be developed further • Revision of SCONUL Guidelines for QAA Institutional Audit in England following feedback from members <p>5) Developments in Australia to be investigated further and a report produced.</p>	<p>Working Group on Quality Assurance section of SCONUL website regularly updated to include:</p> <p>Further commentaries on members' experiences and institutional documents; additional links to sections of QAA website and professional body websites.</p> <p>Link with university in Australia established. Link with CHELSA (SCONUL equivalent body in South Africa) established through Chair's attendance + keynote paper + workshop at quality assurance conference in</p>
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