

The University of Edinburgh
Senatus Quality Assurance Committee

**Notes of the electronic Senate Quality Assurance Committee meeting conducted from
Monday 20 to Monday 27 August 2018**

NOTES

1. Formal Business

- 1.1** The electronic meeting was conducted to enable the Committee to approve items which did not require substantial discussion in order to provide feedback to schools in a timeous manner and to commence preparations for the 2018-19 Thematic Review.

2. For Approval

2.1 Thematic Review of Student Support 2018-19

The Committee **approved** the proposal to refocus the scope of the Thematic Review 2018-19 from a general review of support for Widening Participation (WP) to a specific focus on Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) students' experiences of support at the University.

2.2 Student Voice Policy

The Committee received a revision to the Student Voice Policy amended to reflect the move towards a streamlined student representation system based on a smaller number of reps structured by programme rather than course or tutorial group, in order that reps can be better trained and engage more effectively.

Members noted the following:

- **Comment:** The link to the EqIAs for the policy (point 3 in the paper) was broken.
Action: The link was fixed.
- **Comment:** Mid-course feedback, page 5: 'If Schools think that a particular approach to gathering mid-course feedback might raise equality and diversity issues then they should take steps to mitigate the risks.' I'm not sure this is sufficient in terms of guidance, given that survey design and analysis of mid-course feedback is devolved to Schools, and in practical terms, to course organisers, who may not be knowledgeable about the EDI issues around student evaluations and survey design. If other members of the committee are also concerned about this point, perhaps it could be discussed further, with a view to offering Schools guidance.
Action: No further comments were received.
- **Comment:** Edit needed to the Student Voice Policy – page 4/paragraph 6 removal of the word 'to' (Schools should to publish the dates of the meetings ahead of the meeting and agendas should be available in advance of the meeting....).
Action: The document was amended accordingly.
- **Comment:** For both the Student Voice Policy and SSLC Operational Guidance there is a movement from 'schools are encouraged to' to 'school should' and other changes, is there a plan to enhance the 'launch' of these policy updates in case they ignored at school level in the trample of induction?
Action: A communication circulated to schools.

The Committee **approved** the revised Student Voice Policy.

2.3 Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) Operational Guidance

The Committee **approved** the revised Student Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC) Operational Guidance reflecting the move towards a streamlined student representation system based on a smaller number of reps structured by programme rather than course or tutorial group, in order that reps can be better trained and engage more effectively.

2.4 Internal Review Reports and Responses

The Committee **approved** the following Final Reports:

- Teaching Programme Review of Biomedical Sciences (including Zhejiang site visit) 2017-18
- Teaching Programme Review of Education 2017-18

The Committee received and noted the following Year On and 14 Week Response Reports:

- Joint Teaching/Postgraduate Programme Review of Economics 2016-17 - Year on
- Teaching Programme Review of Asian Studies 2016-17 - Year on
- Teaching Programme Review of Ecological and Environmental Sciences (including with management) 2016-17 - Year on
- Postgraduate Programme Review of Molecular, Genetic and Population Health Sciences 2017-18 - 14 Week Response
- Teaching Programme Review of SLICCs within TPR of Moray House School of Education 2017-18 - 14 Week Response
- Teaching Programme Review of Sociology and Sustainable Development 2017-18 - 14 Week Response

3. For Information

3.1 External Examiner Reporting System: Total reports for 2016/17

The Committee received and noted a report on the total number of undergraduate and postgraduate taught reports submitted via the External Examiner Reporting System for academic year 2016/17.

4. Date of Next Meeting:

Thursday 20 September 2018 at 9am in the Raeburn Room, Old College