

Report from the Quality Assessment Committee

Issue

1. The board is kept informed of the work of its Quality Assessment Committee (QAC) by receiving a report on the outcomes of each meeting. The attached report summarises the outcomes of the QAC meeting held on 20 May 2021. This report will be supplemented by an oral report given by the chair of the committee.

Recommendations

2. The board is invited to receive the report of the Quality Assessment Committee.

Further information

3. Available from Simon Levine.

Quality Assessment Committee report

May 2021

Quality and standards consultation update

1. The committee received a paper which set out progress with the quality and standards consultation. This included an update on the current plans for publication of the next phase of consultation documents and the timeline for when the outcomes are expected to be published.
2. The committee noted the paper's recommendation of establishing a small reading group from its membership to input to the further development of proposals. The chair asked members to email OfS officers to express an interest in taking part, noting that the bulk of this work would need to be undertaken in the first two weeks of June.

QAA Quarterly report as the DQB

3. The committee noted the QAA's Year 3, Quarter 4 Quarterly report as the DQB.

DQB Annual report

4. The committee received the QAA's third Annual report as the DQB for 2020-21, as required under paragraph 8 of schedule 4 of HERA.

Update on the review of the DQB KPMs and Schedule 2 of the Designation Agreement

5. The committee received a paper updating on progress with the latest version of the KPMs to monitor the performance of the DQB as required under Section 4 of HERA.
6. The committee agreed with the changes made to the KPMs commenting that the latest version clearly articulates the requirements for both organisations, and now ensures each KPM sets the context of how evidence must be linked with judgements and outcomes. The committee agreed revised wording for the KPM relating to conflicts of interest.
7. The committee noted that a final version of the KPMs will be circulated once agreed with the QAA.

Update on essay mills

8. The committee received a paper providing an update on developments relating to essay mills and contract cheating since its last consideration in February 2020.
9. The committee agreed that a sector level response is key to addressing the problem of essay mills and that now is an appropriate time for the OfS to be more present in public debates and to set out its regulatory perspective in a way that will support and encourage sector level response.

Future committee meetings

10. The next meeting will take place on 14 September 2021.