

Progress of and Plans for Quality Assurance in Universities

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1. Progress of activities from 25th March 2016 – 27th June 2016

1.1. *'Manual for Institutional Review of Sri Lankan Universities and Higher Education Institutions'*

A total of 37 copies of the Manual had been issued to the Universities and the Director/QAA Council during the period, making the grand total number of manuals issued since launch to 840.

1.2. *Institutional Review using the guidelines of the new Institutional Review Manual*

1.2.1. *University of Peradeniya*

A 18 page long report titled '*SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS/CONCRENS DRAFT REPORT OF INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW – 2016 UNIVERSITY OF PERADENIYA*' and four bundles of supporting documents for the claims made were received from University of Peradeniya on 9th April 2016. Copies of the report and supporting documents were sent to individual members of the review team on 10th April 2016. With the permission of the Acting Director of the HETC, a meeting between the review team and representatives of the University of Peradeniya was organized and held on 25th April 2016. The Vice Chancellor, Deputy Vice Chancellor and Deans of seven faculties of the University of Peradeniya participated, while Professors Rohini Seneviratne (Chair), G.S. Widanapathirana, K.R.R. Mahanama, Janitha Liyanage and Piyadasa Hewage participated representing the review team. Above named members of the review team held another meeting on 5th May 2016 to finalize the review report taking the concerns of the university into consideration. Recorded proceedings and the documents submitted by the university were made available to them.

An electronic copy of the finalized Review report received from the Review Chair on 16th May 2016 was forwarded to the University on the same day for perusal. On 20th May 2016 an electronic copy of a letter from the VC, University of Peradeniya was received. It stated that '*the Final Institutional Review Report was discussed at the Senate and the Senate unanimously decided not to accept the report because their reservations indicated to the review committee had not been considered in a justifiable manner*'.

The letter was forwarded to the Acting Director, message was conveyed to the Review panel and a reply was sent to the Vice Chancellor.

The procedure followed in organizing the review as well as in facilitating to resolve the conflict was in accordance with the procedure prescribed in the IR manual. Institutional Review Report can enter public domain once it is accepted by the University (Institutional Review Manual page 27). The University has requested a fresh Institutional Review. Directive of the QAA standing committee is sought in this regard.

1.2.2. University of Colombo

Institutional Review of University of Colombo was held from 14th -18th March 2016. Below listed team of senior academic members approved by the QAASC/UGC served as the members of the Review Panel.

<i>Prof. Nimal Gunawardena (Chair)</i>	}	<i>Trained, experienced Institutional Reviewers</i>
<i>Prof. B.L. Tennekoon</i>		
<i>Prof. N.K. Dangalla</i>		
<i>Prof. S.H.P.P. Kalrunaratne</i>	}	<i>Newly trained reviewers with subject review experience</i>
<i>Prof. (Mrs). G. Dayalatha Lekamge</i>		
<i>Prof. P. Hewage</i>		
<i>Prof. (Mrs). R.P. Chitra Ranjani</i>		

Draft Institutional Review Report received on 10th April 2016 was forwarded to University of Colombo on the same day for perusal. On 24th April a letter was received from the Vice Chancellor of the University requesting time till 6th May 2016 to send their response. On 5th May 2016, comments of the University on draft Institutional Review report was received and it was forwarded to the review team on the same day. Final report was received on 16th May 2016 and forwarded to the University. University has suggested a minor amendment which was again forwarded to the review chair. Finalized report incorporating the requested amendment was received on 25th May 2016. A copy of the Institutional Review Report is submitted to the QAA Standing Committee on 27th May 2016.

1.3. ‘Manual for Review of Undergraduate Study Programmes of Sri Lankan Universities and Higher Education Institutions’

A total of 678 copies of the Programme Review Manual have been issued upon request to the Universities, Reviewers, UGC, and the Ministry of Higher Education during the period, making the grand total number of manuals issued since launch 1628.

2. QA activities planned for the next two months

Since the tenure of the QA consultant will complete by 31st May 2016, no new activities had been planned.