

## Progress of and Plans for Quality Assurance in Universities

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### 1. Progress of activities from 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015

#### 1.1. Institutional Reviews of Universities

Self-Evaluation Reports of **University of Peradeniya** and **Eastern University of Sri Lanka** have been received. Adhering to the guidelines of the IR manual, panels of trained reviewers were identified, their concurrence to review the assigned university was obtained and dates were selected based on their availability. The universities were informed of the suggested Dates and potential Reviewers for intended reviews.

**University of Peradeniya** has concurred with the suggested panel of reviewers but not the suggested dates. **Second half of February 2016** has been suggested by the University as the suitable period for Institutional Review considering the academic programmes.

**Eastern University of Sri Lanka** has concurred with both the suggested dates (**Dec 14-18, 2015**) and the panel of reviewers. Below indicated list has been sent to Chairman/QAASC for concurrence and obtaining UGC approval. Awaiting official approval of the UGC.

#### Trained and experienced Institutional Reviewers and Affiliation

Prof. R.P. Mahaliyanaarachchi	Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka
Prof. Upali Jayasekera	External Member (formerly of Sabaragamuwa University)

#### Newly Trained members with experience in Subject/Programme Review and Affiliation

Prof. Sanath Hettiarachchi	Rajarata University of Sri Lanka (formerly of Univ. Ruhuna)
Prof. Aruni Weerasinghe	Rajarata University of Sri Lanka
Prof. Kanthi S. Yapa	Ruhuna University of Sri Lanka

**University of Colombo** is yet to submit the Self-Evaluation Report. The University has suggested to conduct the review in **second half of January 2016**.

#### 1.2. Formulation of Manual for Quality Assurance of Undergraduate Study Programmes

##### 1.2.1. Preparation of the Draft Manual

Final meetings were held among the team of Manual writers on following dates to formulate the draft Manual for *Quality Assurance of Undergraduate Study Programmes of Sri Lankan Universities*.

4<sup>th</sup> October 2015

15<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Preparation of the draft Manual was completed.

##### 1.2.2. Stakeholder workshop to obtain views on the Draft Manual

A two-day workshop was held for 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October for representatives nominated by deans of the Faculties in response to the request made by the QA consultant, and IQAU Directors of all Universities to obtain their views on the formulated draft *Manual for Quality Assurance of Undergraduate Study Programmes of Sri Lankan Universities*. Chairman/UGC, Vice Chairman/UGC and Chairman/QAASC were invited for the workshop.

Professors Uma Coomaraswamy, Narada Warnasuriya, H. Abeygunawardena, Nandani de Silva, BD Nandadeva (writers of the IR Manual) and Prof. Kalyani Perera (QA Consultant / HETC) served as resource Persons. Total of **97 senior academic members** representing the Faculties and

Universities participated. They were divided into 11 groups to scrutinize 11 different sections of the Manual and the views of the 11 groups were obtained through 11 presentations.

### **1.2.3. Meetings to incorporate Stakeholder views to Draft Manual**

Meetings of the Manual writing team and the QA Consultant were held on below listed dates to incorporate the views presented by 11 groups of stakeholders, to the Draft manual.

*22nd October 2015*

*26th October 2015*

*12th November 2015*

Incorporation of stakeholder views to draft Manual was completed. Final Manual was sent to UGC Chairman and Actg. Director/HETC for scrutiny and their Message for the Manual.

### **1.2.4. Editing the Manual for Quality Assurance of Undergraduate Study Programmes**

Part I of the Manual was edited on *26<sup>th</sup> November 2015*.

## **1.3. Formulation of Subject Benchmark Statements**

### **1.3.1. New Benchmark Statements**

A meeting of the Subject Benchmarking Committee on **Indigenous Medicine** was held on *25<sup>th</sup> September 2015*. Formulated draft Benchmark statement was scrutinized and required modifications and improvements were highlighted. Changing the title of the benchmark statement to 'Ayushi' to represent all areas of medicine (Ayurveda, Siddha, Homeopathy, Indigenous) coming under the benchmark statement was proposed by the committee. The committee agreed to make necessary modifications and meet again to present the finalized statement.

A meeting of Subject Benchmarking Committee on **Nursing** was held on *2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015*. Formulated draft Benchmark statement was scrutinized and required modifications and improvements were highlighted. The committee agreed to make necessary modifications and meet again to present the finalized statement.

### **1.3.2. Revision of 'old' Benchmark Statements**

Nominations received from the Universities for below indicated Benchmarking Committees were sent on *25<sup>th</sup> September 2015* to QAASC for approval.

*Mathematics & Statistics*

*Botany*

**Awaiting appointment of the approved Benchmarking Committees by the UGC** to commence revision of Benchmark statements.

## **1.4. Training Programme for senior academics nominated by Universities to serve as future Institutional Reviewers**

A Training programme on new guidelines for Institutional Review was held on *5th October 2015* for senior academic staff members nominated by the Vice Chancellors and approved by the three member subcommittee of the QAASC, to train them to serve in future Institutional Reviews. Chairman/UGC, Vice Chairman/UGC and Chairman/QAASC were invited.

Professors Uma Coomaraswamy, Narada Warnasuriya, H. Abeygunawardena, Nandani de Silva, BD Nandadeva (writers of the IR Manual) and Prof. Kalyani Perera (QA Consultant / HETC) served as resource Persons. Total of **82 senior academic staff members** from the universities participated at the workshop.

### **1.5. Promoting Implementation of Internal Quality Assurance circular and Sri Lanka Qualification Framework**

An awareness programme on Internal Quality Assurance Circular, Sri Lanka Qualification Framework and Institutional Review Manual guidelines was held at the *Eastern University of Sri Lanka* on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Professors Uma Coomaraswamy, H. Abeygunawardena (writers of the IR Manual), Dr. Gominda Ponnamparuma (SLQF Consultant/HETC) and Prof. Kalyani Perera (QA Consultant / HETC) served as resource Persons. Total of **131 members of the Eastern University staff** including the Deans of Faculties, Professors, senior lecturers and members of the administration staff participated.

## **2. QA activities planned for December 2015 & January 2016**

### **2.1. Institutional Reviews of Universities**

Institutional Review of **Eastern University of Sri Lanka** will be held on **14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2015**.

Institutional Review of **University of Colombo** will be held in **second half of January 2016**. Adhering to the guidelines, trained reviewers available during this period will be nominated with concurrence of the University for UGC approval.

### **2.2. Manual for Quality Assurance of Undergraduate Study Programmes**

Manual editing will be completed in December 2015. Plans are underway to get it printed and launched by January 2016.

### **2.3. Formulation of Subject Benchmark Statements**

#### **2.3.1. New Benchmark Statements**

Benchmark statements in '*Ayushi Medicine*' and '*Nursing*' will be finalized.

#### **2.3.2. Revision of 'old' Benchmark statements**

Benchmark statements in '*Botany*' and '*Mathematics and Statistics*' will be commenced after the respective benchmarking panels are appointed by the UGC.

Meetings with the former members of the following benchmarking committees will be held to examine whether the existing benchmark statements need revision and if so to decide on the course of action and the time frame and nominate the members to be included in the next committees:

*Civil Engineering*

*Economics*

*Geography*

*Medicine*

*Physics*

*Zoology*

### **2.4. Promoting Internal Quality Assurance and Sri Lanka Qualification Framework**

Functions of IQAUs of the Universities will be monitored and required assistance will be provided. Universities will be visited depending on the need of the IQAU and availability of relevant officials.