Notes of the Second Meeting of the Second Term of Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation at 2:30 pm on 18 June 2021 in the Theatre of the office of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, 10 Siu Sai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Present: Dr Joe HONG (Chair)
                  Professor YV HUI
                  Professor Jimmy LEE
                  Professor Yu-Hon LUI
                  Dr Louis MA
                  Dr Kim MAK
                  Mr Jonathan NG
                  Dr Homer TSO
                  Professor Eric YU
                  Professor Allan HK YUEN
                  Dr Fiona LOCK (Secretary)

In Attendance: Dr CHIU Sau Mee
                  Ms Anne LAU
                  Mr Sam HO

1   INTRODUCTION

Chair welcomed Members of the Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation (LPAA). He expressed appreciation of the participation of the Members and looked forward to listening to their views to facilitate further improvement of HKCAAVQ's services that better fit the needs of the academic sector.

2   BRIEFING ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT OF HKCAAVQ'S ACCREDITATION SERVICES

2.1   Report on Update of Operational Details in the Manual for the Four-stage QA Process under HKQF

The Manual for the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process under HKQF (the "Manual") was updated in November 2020. Based on the operational

(21 January 2022)

experience, feedback from operators, and development of accreditation services, operational details in the Manual were updated for the purpose of enhancing the consistency, clarity and currency of the information related to the accreditation process, outcome and status. Members were briefed on the update of operational details in the Manual. Members shared their views on a range of issues, including the eligibility criteria for applying for Programme Area Accreditation (PAA) and the latest mechanism of application for awarding degrees under the Post Secondary Colleges Ordinance (Cap. 320). Members were informed that HKCAAVQ would make efforts to facilitate and cooperate with Cap. 320 institutions in this regard.

2.2 **Interim Review of Differentiation Approach in Accreditation**

HKCAAVQ shared with Members the key observations and findings of the interim review of the differentiation approach in accreditation. The differentiation decision was made upon analysis of the operators' track record, performance profiles and/or outcomes drawn from the Quality Management System (QMS) of HKCAAVQ. Members generally agreed that the implementation of differentiation, including the adoption of paper-based review, variation in validity period, and/or customization, was a form of recognition of the demonstrated capability of the operators in implementing their internal quality assurance arrangements. Members discussed and suggested that, as a long-term strategy, HKCAAVQ explores ways of further enhancing its transparency in the execution of the differentiation approach in accreditation.

2.3 **Development of QR Mobile**

HKCAAVQ reported to members that it launched the QR Mobile in December 2020, stakeholders were in general satisfied with the current design and functionalities of the QR Mobile, and gave positive feedback. With a simple and easy-to-read layout, the QR Mobile enabled the public to search qualification information and credit transfer arrangements of over 8,000 qualifications operated by more than 200 operators at the fingertip. Users could bookmark their favourite records and share the information through common messenger applications. Members advised HKCAAVQ to pay attention to the security protection of the system. HKCAAVQ informed Members that Security Audit is conducted every two years.

(21 January 2022)

3   DISCUSSION ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SELF-FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IN HONG KONG

3.1   Proposed Strategies for Engaging Accredited Operators and Programmes during Validity Period

HKCAAVQ proposed to engage accredited operators in providing information in relation to the accreditation standards for quality assurance and effective communications. Regarding the suggestions to engage accredited operators with PAA status in quality assurance and quality enhancement, it is proposed to expand the scope of annual return. Members exchanged views from different perspectives. For instance, a Member suggested more comprehensive information be provided in the University's Annual Report instead of the PAA's annual return.

3.2   Implementation of Publication of Accreditation Reports

HKCAAVQ updated Members on the implementation progress for the publication of full accreditation reports. The publication of full accreditation reports applies to academic accreditation which covers Learning Programme Accreditation (LPA) and Learning Programme Re-accreditation (re-LPA) for local and non-local programmes, PAA, and Periodic Institutional Review (PIR) under the Four-stage Quality Assurance Process in which the corresponding programmes bear award titles and/or programme titles as 'degree' and are at QF Level 5 or above.   To respond to Members enquiry about the reasons for HKCAAVQ publishing full accreditation reports of academic accreditation exercises, the Chair shared that this approach is in line with the international practice, and it also meets the need for a higher level of transparency given that students are undertaking degree programmes in the self-financed academic sector. Members noted that nine full reports were published on the HKCAAVQ website as of mid-June 2021.

4   ANY OTHER BUSINESS

4.1   There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.

(21 January 2022)