

Notes of the Second Meeting of the Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation at 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon on 4 August 2017 at the office of the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications, Conference Room, 2/F, 10 Siu Sai Wan Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Present: Mr Robert FEARNSIDE (Chair)
Dr CHEUNG Ping Kuen
Professor Simon HO
Professor Reggie KWAN
Professor James LEE
Professor LUI Yu Hon
Mr Jonathan NG
Dr Lillian WONG Sin Ying
Mr Wilbur PANG (Secretary)

Absent with apologies: Professor CN CHANG
Dr John CRIBBIN
Professor Jimmy LEE
Mr LUN Chi Wai

WELCOME

Chair welcomed Members to the second meeting of the Liaison Panel for Academic Accreditation (LPAA).

1. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 1.1 HKCAAVQ advised the Panel that they planned to sign memoranda of cooperation with targeted professional bodies to formalise their relationship. Members supported moves for better coordination and sharing of information between HKCAAVQ and professional bodies in accreditation. For joint accreditation, Members expressed concern about the need to prepare a very large accreditation document to demonstrate the meeting of different accreditation standards and criteria adopted by HKCAAVQ and the professional body.
- 1.2 HKCAAVQ would conduct a pilot accreditation exercise for an online learning programme in October 2017. Members discussed the definition of online learning programme and asked to have the opportunity to read the relevant guidelines for this pilot exercise. In addition, Members exchanged views on the trends in online learning

programmes, and noted the establishment of alliances between the universities in Hong Kong and the Mainland to boost the development of online programmes.

2. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS OF HKCAAVQ'S ACCREDITATION SERVICES

2.1 Members noted the following:

- (a) The Quality Management System (QMS) and the e-Portal are in use. Operators are required to use the e-Portal to submit documents related to accreditation, CEF assessment and CPD assessment. Panel members are requested to access the accreditation documents via the e-Platform for respective accreditation exercises.
- (b) The publication of summary reports which started in 2013 now covers all kinds of accreditation exercises conducted under the Four-Stage Quality Assurance Process. The hit rate of the web page on summary reports continues to increase in the past three years. To align with the international practice, HKCAAVQ will explore the possibility of publishing full accreditation reports after consultation with stakeholders.
- (c) Differentiated accreditation approaches include paper-based accreditation and customised accreditation. Operators with good track records and good quality demonstrated in accreditation exercises may be eligible for a longer validity period. Track record of the operators would be drawn from the QMS for analysis. The indicators include the outcomes of the past accreditation exercises, external recognition, compliance to rules and regulations.
- (d) A new procedure "notification", was planned to be introduced in assessing substantial changes. An operator with a good track record in accreditation who is eligible for a differentiated accreditation approach could use the notification procedure. In handling notification, the process would be similar to the existing process, but without engaging a specialist, require a shorter time to process and at a lower fee. Consultation on the details of the proposed new approach would be held on 17 August 2017, with implementation of the revised substantial change process planned for 1 September 2017.

(e) There was a potential demand for non-QF accreditation for programmes operated in Mainland China. A pilot exercise was conducted in November 2016 to test out the accreditation criteria.

2.2 Members welcomed the introduction of “notification” in handling substantial change. For the publication of full accreditation reports, Members reminded HKCAAVQ that sensitivity of disclosing the information contained in the full accreditation report should be considered.

3. STUDENT ENGAGEMENT – DIALOGUE WITH STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

3.1 HKCAAVQ planned to establish a connection with the student bodies and expand the involvement of students and graduates in quality assurance. HKCAAVQ would meet with the student representatives for informal dialogues to explore the way forward.

3.2 Members considered that students could gain more knowledge in quality assurance, but had a view that students should be more informed before taking up roles in the quality assurance activities and that this could be done on an institutional basis.

4. LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SELF-FINANCING HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR IN HONG KONG

4.1 The Government initiated the *Non-means-Tested Subsidy Scheme for Self-financing Undergraduate Studies in Hong Kong and the Mainland*. Members exchanged their views on the scheme, and considered that it might have a positive impact on the demand for local degree programmes, but a negative impact on sub-degree programmes as one of the eligibility criteria is “3322” in the HKDSE.

4.2 Based on the eligibility criterion of “3322” in the HKDSE of the scheme, Members queried whether the minimum entry requirement of local bachelor degree programmes should be “33222” or “3322”. HKCAAVQ clarified that the minimum entry requirement of local bachelor degree programmes should be in line with minimum requirements accepted by the UGC-funded institutions.

- 4.3 A Member shared his views on the development and sustainability of the locally-accredited self-financed degree-granting sector. Members exchanged their opinions and considered that many of the areas identified related to education policies rather than quality assurance.

5. CAT PROJECT

- 5.1 HKCAAVQ received funding from the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) to develop a centralised database for Credit Accumulation and Transfer. The Project Team briefed Members about the progress of the project including the consultations with different stakeholders, and the upcoming focus group meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 6.1 Members noted the need to identify a better time for the meeting so that more Members could attend.
- 6.2 The next meeting would be scheduled by the Secretary after consulting the Members. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

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