

Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)

Notes of meeting of 22st February 2018

Present: Barbara Brittingham (Chair); Ken Carroll; Anne Mangan; Paul Lyons; Maureen Conway; Liz Carroll; Peter Cullen (Key Executive)

Apologies: John D. Mulcahy; Mary Danagher

In attendance: Michelle Gallagher (QA - QQI)

1. **Minutes of PAOC meeting 21th September 2017** (PAOC/A1-2018/1)

The minutes of the PAOC meeting on the 21st of September 2017 were AGREED.

2. **Conflict of Interest** (PAOC/A1-2018/2)

No conflicts of interest were noted.

3. **Negative decision taken by the PAEC on Programme Validation for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC** (PAOC/A4-2018/3)

Validation Refusals

Dublin Business School

3.1 PG23242 Certificate in Digital Marketing, L9, Minor Award, 30 Credits
(PAOC/A4-2018/3.1)

The item was introduced by the Key Executive. Queries relating to the embedded programmes were made by committee members. These were addressed and clarified.

The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.2 PG23295 Certificate in Social Studies for Care Assistants, Level 6, Minor Award, 60 Credits
(PAOC/A4-2018/3.2)

It was noted that the issues were similar to those for Item 3.1. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of this programme was considered and CONFIRMED.

3.3 Refusal to Extend Validation

Clanwilliam Institute

- Master of Science in Systemic Psychotherapy, Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits
- Postgraduate Diploma in Science in Systemic Psychotherapy. Level 9, Major Award, 60 Credits

The committee was given a brief outline of the extension to validation process. The Key Executive provided context for these programmes. It was noted this was the provider's second request for an extension of validation for these programmes.

The PAEC's decision to refuse the extension of validation for these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

4. **Feedback from PAOC Survey** (PAOC/A4-2018/4)

Feedback from the Annual Self-Assessment evaluation of the performance of QQI Committees (2017) was discussed. It was noted that this feedback was based on responses from a portion of the committee, not all members. The committee confirmed that they found the feedback beneficial, and stated that a complete response would be informative. A reminder to complete the survey has been circulated.

5. **Oral Report of PAOC representations at PAEC meetings** (PAOC/A4-2018/5)

The PAEC convened four times since the PAOC last met. Each meeting has attended by a PAOC member.

Overall the committee members communicated that they found the experience to be interesting and worthwhile, expressing confidence in the programme validation process and the PAEC meeting model. It is noted that the PAOC members would like to continue attending the PAEC meetings.

Maureen Conway represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 28th September 2017.

Specific points that Maureen noted:

- The amount of staff effort and work involved
- The diligence of the members' and robust nature of the discussion
- Quality of the discussion
- Confidence in the process

Anne Mangan represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 1st November 2017.

Specific points that Anne noted:

- The meeting was interesting, and the PAEC members were welcoming.

- Breadth of experience of the PAEC members.
- The discussions were fair and balanced.
- Interesting to see the relationship and communication with providers.
- The experience instilled great confidence in the process

Ken Carroll represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 8th of December 2017.

Specific points that Ken noted:

- Concurs with colleagues on the committee
- Impressed with the length and breadth of the discussions
- Felt there was constructive feedback for providers
- Overall worthwhile experience
- Struck by the number of members of the committee
- Range of expertise and knowledge of the committee
- Terrific learning experience

6. Matters arising from the Minutes

(PAOC/A4-2018/6)

No matters arising from the minutes were noted.

7. Any Other Business

(PAOC/A4-2018/7)

It was noted that this was the last scheduled meeting in the appointed term of the office for Committee members Liz Carroll, Maureen Conway, Anne Mangan and John D. Mulcahy. These members were asked if they would like to raise any specific queries.

A member of the committee commented on the comparability of recognition given to Higher Certificate and Advanced Certificate awards by higher education institutions, acknowledging the Key Executive's efforts to resolve issues in this area.

The committee and Key Executive extended thanks and appreciation to the members of committees whose terms in office are ending.

The Key Executive informed the PAOC that a meta-analysis of validation reports is being planned. The committee noted this and expressed interest in seeing the outcomes of the analysis.

In regard to organising the next meeting of the PAOC, a poll will be circulated depending on the next recommendation of refusal from the PAEC.

There was no further business, and so, the meeting ended.