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**RVC Teaching Quality Committee – AGENDA ITEM**

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**Executive Summary & Report: BVetMed Year 4 External Examiners report 20/21**

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**Prepared by:** *Dan Chan*

**Presented by:** *n/a*

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**To be considered at Teaching Quality Committee meeting on:** **9th March 2021**

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**Action:** *to consider/to approve*

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**Approval obtained from other committees/or pending:** *n/a*

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**Reserved item:** *No*

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**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To consider response to External Examiner reports for 2020/21.

Documents included:

Collaborative External Examiner's report written by: Dr Mickey Tivers (Lead Writer), Dr Veronica Roberts, Dr Gudrun Schoeffmann, Professor Gayle Hallowell.

## ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2020/21

### Appendix 3: External Examiners' report

#### BVetMed Year 4

This appendix contains Year Leader's responses to 2020/21 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from previous External Examiners' reports (if applicable).

As Course Director please ensure you reflect on External Examiners' comments in the Course Review section. Please ensure that any actions to be taken in response to these comments have been recorded in your Annual Quality Improvement Report.

For support or advice please contact Ana Filipovic, Academic Quality Officer 'Standards', [afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:afilipovic@rvc.ac.uk), 01707666938

Appendix 3 consists of:

a.	Updates to actions from previous years' reports (n/a)
b.	2020/21 Collaborative Annual Report with responses from Course Director

# Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 17-Dec-2020

**Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine, Year 4, 2020/21**

**Lead examiner: Dr Mickey Tivers**

**Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Veronica Roberts, Dr Gudrun Schoeffmann, Professor Gayle Hallowell**

## The Programme

**Please comment, as appropriate, on the following aspects of the programme:**

### 1.1 Course content

The contents of the course was considered to be of appropriate breadth and depth for fourth year veterinary students.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 1.2 Learning objectives, and the extent to which they were met

The learning objectives were considered to be appropriate and these were well met by the examination. Students seemed to be more engaged with the different parts of the course compared to previous years.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you. We have a similar impression on the improved level of engagement with certain subjects.

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### **1.3 Teaching methods**

Excellent, preparing the students well for the examination.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### **1.4 Resources (in so far as they affected the assessment)**

The assessment had very good resources.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### **1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme**

See specific comments later.

## Student performance

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 2.1 Students' performance in relation to those at a similar stage on comparable courses in other institutions, where this is known to you

Students performed to a similar standard to those in enrolled at the Universities of Bristol, Edinburgh and Nottingham.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

This is very reassuring to know. Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 2.2 Quality of candidates' knowledge and skills, with particular reference to those at the top, middle or bottom of the range

Overall the examination was answered well, with a good proportion of students achieving Merit and Distinction. There was also a relatively small proportion of failing students. Candidates performed well in Paper 2, especially compared to previous years.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you. The improved performance could be due to the open book nature of this exam and the Course Management Committee will consider options for restructuring exam in next academic year

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### **2.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the students' performance**

The improvement in student performance that was previously noted over the last few years has been continued (and surpassed) with this assessment. Well done to staff and students.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

## Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

### 3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The assessment methods are considered appropriate and continue be refined.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

The exam was very rigorous, fair and transparent. As external examiners we had access to all aspects of the assessment and any queries or questions were dealt with in a comprehensive fashion.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

### 3.3 Consistency of the level of assessment with the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)

The level of assessment was consistent with the Framework.

### 3.4 Standard of marking

The standard of marking was excellent, especially given the large number of students that were assessed. We were very confident that the marking was fair and consistent with many quality control and assurance steps. The model answers and the mark schemes were very clear to follow and implement. The feedback comments were excellent and were very useful for us as external examiners as well as invaluable for the students.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**3.5 In your view, are the procedures for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted? (e.g. Briefing, Exam administration, marking arrangements, Board of Examiners, participation by External Examiners)**

Yes, absolutely.

**3.6 Opinion on changes to the assessment procedures from previous years in which you have examined**

There were some procedural changes made due to the challenges imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic. We believe that staff did the very best possible job in making sure that the examination was successful and fair.

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures**

Please see next section for further comments.



**4.1 Comments I have made in previous years have been addressed to my satisfaction**

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.2 An acceptable response has been made**

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.4 I was able to scrutinise an adequate sample of students' work and marks to enable me to carry out my duties**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.5 I attended the meeting of the Board of Examiners held to approve the results of the Examination**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.7 The standards set for the awards are appropriate for qualifications at this level, in this subject**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.8 The standards of student performance are comparable with similar programmes or subjects in other UK institutions with which I am familiar**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Mr Dan Chan**

**Course Director Response:**

Thank you

**Action Required:**

**Action Deadline:**

**Action assigned to:**

**4.9 I have received enough training and support to carry out my role**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.10 I have received sufficient information to carry out my role (where information was insufficient, please give details)**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

**4.12 The processes for assessment and the determination of awards are sound**

**Yes**

**Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:**

## Completion

**If you have identified any areas of good practice, please comment more fully here. We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:**

