

## **ANNUAL QUALITY IMPROVEMENT REPORT 2015/16**

### **Appendix 3: External Examiners' report**

#### **MSc Veterinary Education**

This appendix contains Course Directors' responses to 2015/16 External Examiners' comments and updates to actions from 2014/15 External Examiners' report (if applicable).

As Course Directors 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

# Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 09-Sep-2016

**MSc in Veterinary Education (Part-Time), 2015/16**

**Lead examiner: Professor Peter van Beukelen**

**Collaborating examiner(s): Dr Sean McAleer**

## The Programme

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

### 1.1 Course content

The course content for certificate, diploma and masters is clearly described and covers a wide range of relevant topics appropriate for veterinary education.

**Response from college requested: NO**

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

For all modules there are clear learning objectives and in the assignments it becomes clear that learning objectives are met.

**Response from college requested: NO**

### 1.3 Teaching methods

We did not see any face-to-face teaching but from extensive conversations with the team leaders we are confident that teaching methods are appropriate.

**Response from college requested: NO**

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

Resources available were fine and not a problem

**Response from college requested: NO**

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

The Programme as a whole seems to us very adequate and high quality, with a well-structured administrative back up and the involvement of motivated teachers and supervisors. In general formative and summative feedback, and harmonisation of feedback between teachers is a suggestion for further improvement.

**Response from college requested: NO**

### Course Directors' response:

Thank you for your comments!

As an action for 2016/17 use of OCM system as a wrapper to Turnitin to enable feedback on formative patches and final assignments was trialled. This will be used in the future in a consistent way and format.

## 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

There was a wide range of evidence that there was a good level of reflection in students' work. The content of the assignments we have seen were in general of high quality.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Most of the assignments for the Certificate and Diploma were of high standard. The only dissertation judged for the MSc Veterinary Education was not of enough quality, as was already marked by the internal examiners, with which we as externals agreed.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

We were happy with the conduct of the course and impressed with the standards applied.

Response from college requested: **NO**

## Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

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

Assessment methods were in the form of written reflective pieces and practical aspects (e.g. teaching observations) and this is an adequate combination for reaching the learning objectives.

Response from college requested: **NO**

### 3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

All assignments were double marked, which is very good. The rigour is to be commended. It is recommended to look further into increased harmonisation of the feedback given by the markers. That is for instance the use of general rubrics by all teachers, a general use of track changes and comments in the essays and dissertations. Where possible, in the light of supervision time, the introduction of formative feedback of the supervisor on a first draft of essays can be considered.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The assessment meets with the framework.

Response from college requested: **NO**

### 3.4 Standard of marking

The standard of marking and feedback is high. It is recommended to standard integrate the remarks of the two examiners, into one piece of written feedback, so it is always clear to the student what remarks are made and, when relevant, which is the direction of the adaptations that are requested. Further suggestion is to take the remarks under 3.2 into account.

Response from college requested: **NO**

### 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, the procedures are sound and adhered to. The staff involved in the procedures have a high level of involvement.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

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:

Response from college requested: NO

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:

Response from college requested: NO

4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

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:

Response from college requested: NO

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:

Response from college requested: NO

4.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: 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:

Response from college requested: NO

4.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

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

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: 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:

**5.1 Do you have any suggestions for improvements based on experience at other institutes? We may use information provided in our annual external examining report:**

The academic staff is very motivated to support the students in their learning process, so to make a success out of this programme, and are backed up by a good administrative setup.

**Response from college requested: NO**

**5.2 External Examiner comments: For College information only (Responses to External Examiners are published on the College's website. Please only use this box to add any comments that you wish to remain confidential, if any)**

**Response from college requested: NO**

