Individual Report

MSc in Veterinary Education (Part-Time), 2013/14

Dr Sean McAleer

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

The course content for the Certificate, Diploma and MSc in Veterinary Education is clearly described and appropriate tof the level of programme

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

There are clear learning outcomes which are relevant to the modules studies. I believe these outcomes have been successfully met.

Response from college requested: **NO**

1.3 Teaching methods

I had limited access to the teaching involved but from discussions with various staff these seem to have been highly appropriate.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

I saw no evidence that there was an issue with access to appropraite resources.

Response from college requested: **NO**

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

The teaching staff are enthusiastic and fully committed to ensuring a high quality programme.
My one recommendation relates to the MSc dissertation - rather than have a separate literature review, project report and oral it would seem more appropriate to combine the review and the report into say a 8000-10000 word dissertation.

Will discuss at the CMC. Outcome will be fed back to External Examiner.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The course work for the modules was certainly of a good standard and equal or better than that on similar courses. The dissertation format could be improved (as mentioned earlier) to combine the research report with the literature review - this I feel would give an improved academic "feel" to the work.

See 1.5

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

From reading the assignments for the Certificate and Diploma there seems to be a good range in terms of the quality produced. The dissertations this year were all borderline or bare passes.

Response from college requested: NO

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

I would recommend that any student going on the the Masters level should complete and pass to a reasonable level the research module.

The CMC will review arrangements for compensation within the module assessments and make an appropriate recommendation to the MCC. Students are already required to complete the research methods module.

Response from college requested: NO

Assessment Process

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The assessments were clearly described and mapped well onto the learning outcomes.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment processes are rigorous

The double marking process adds to the reliability of the assessment. All assessors receive training and marks are scrutinised and when necessary a third marked may be involved. This add to the QE process.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

I am satisfied that the level of assessment is consistent with the FHEQ

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

The standard of marking was appropriate and there were mechanisms inplace to ensure that any disagreement in the marking were adjudicated appropriately.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.5 Opinion on changes to the assessment process from previous years in which you have examined

I am happy that any assessment issues have been addressed.

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.6 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the assessment process

I was impressed with the tutor feedback on the assignments. Feedback was extensive and focused on the positive aspects of the work.
I fail to see how the 17 point marking criteria adds to the reliability of the assessment - half the number of points would I feel make life easier for the assessors.

Response from college requested: **NO**

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

4.1 In your view, are the processes for assessment and the determination of awards sound and fairly conducted?

Yes - I am satisfied that the assessment process is fair one.

Response from college requested: NO

4.2 Opinion on changes to the procedures from previous years in which you have examined

I am happy with the examination process - well administered and thorough in its practice.

Response from college requested: NO

4.3 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

The online facility makes examining so m much easier. It is might also be useful to get a sample of module assignment electronically before the Exam Board meets.

Yes, this will be done.

Response from college requested: NO

General Statements

5.1 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

5.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.4 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

5.5 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

5.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.7 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

5.8 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

5.9 I have received enough support to carry out my role

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.10 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

5.11 Appropriate procedures and processes have been followed

Yes

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Response from college requested: NO

5.12 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:

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

I was impressed with the quality and extent of the feedback given to students by all the tutors. I was also happy with the administration of the programme and the attention to detail.

Response from college requested: **NO**