Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 29-Jul-2015

Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing, 2014/15

Lead examiner: Ms Danielle Banks

Collaborating examiner(s): Mrs Andrea Jeffrey

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

There has been no change to course content during the last academic year and therefore the comments made onthe previous report in 2014 still stand.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The learning outcomes are met within the teaching timetable and through the assessments

Response from college requested: **NO**

1.3 Teaching methods

Broad range of teaching methods are used and there continuea to be a use of innovative teaching to address the needs of distance learning students - the blog in the bridging module and professional studies continues to run successfully and the amount of effort put in by the students has been recognised by a change in the value of this as a method of assessment by the percentage weighting increasing from 5% to 25%

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Staff have not raised any issues relating to resources and their impact on assessment , and we presume if students raised any issues relating to this , it would be considered by the ASD office and cascaded down to the programme team for comment - the external examiners would be keen to know what the mechanism is for this

Response from college requested: **YES**

COURSE DIRECTOR: Ms Perdi Welsh

Course Director Response:

Students are encouraged to formally feedback on every module using online questionnaires and more informally, via each module's Survival Helpline. This helps us to evaluate the students' satisfaction with each module and raise any issues relating to resources and their impact on assessment. Questionnaires are completed anonymously and are processed by the Quality Assurance Office. Analysis of the data and open comments is considered by the course team, Course Management Committee and Teaching Quality Committee. Appropriate actions are discussed and identified and monitored and recorded via the above Committee system.

Action Required:

Action Deadline:

Action assigned to:

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

We note the comment from the course director in the 2014 report regarding student recruitment and cohort size. Our role is not to review marketing and sustainability.

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

As this is a unique programme in terms of content and structure , student performance cannot be compared with that of other institutions

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

Within each of the grade boundries reviewed the students knowledge and recall were clearly reflected within the marks awarded. Having reviewed student work within the top , middle and bottom grade boundaries we agree with the examiners decisons regarding where each of these students sit within the common grading scheme.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

There are no concerns that we wish to raise relating to student performance

Response from college requested: **NO**

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

The weighting of the module discussion activity or 'blog' in the Contemporary Study Skills has been changed from 5% to 25% to reflect the importance of the activity and the effort and time put in by students to this activity.

In addition the assignment in the Contemporary Study Skills module has been changed from two smaller assignments to one 3000 word assignment in oder for the students to demonstrate greater discussion and reflection. This also addresses the requirements for the RCVS criteria in preparation for application for accreditation

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

We are happy that the assessment procedures are rigorous with clear evidence of sample marking and appropriate use of external examiners

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

The 2014 recommendations relating to Contemporary Study Skills have been addressed and there are no other concerns relation to consistency of the level of assessment

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

Sufficient

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

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

we are happy with the changes made in assessment

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

There is still variation in the level of commentary on scripts , by markers, across modules. For example , in the Contemporary Study Skills module there are no comments or feedback but in the Professional Studies module there are.

Within the Veterinary Physiology paper it was clear to see how marks were allocated on both the model answers and candidate papers , this was commented on in the 2014 eport and has now been addressed in this module

Response from college requested: **NO**

General Statements

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

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Yes

Response from college requested: NO

4.2 An acceptable response has been made

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Yes

Response from college requested: NO

4.3 I approved the papers for the Examination

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Yes

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

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Yes although an hour was wasted on the first day as access to the work on line was impossible and resulted in the sample of work being printed out as hard copy. We appreciate that this is a pilot scheme , but this shows that if on line material is not available the work of the external examiner is compromised.

Response from college requested: NO

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

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Yes

Response from college requested: NO

4.6 Candidates were considered impartially and fairly

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Yes

Response from college requested: NO

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

N/A

Additional comments, particularly if your answer was no:

Yes

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

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:

The support received from Karen Wright has been exceptional

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:

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

No - the processes are robust and the time allocated for the external examiners to review the student work and the examiner decisions is ample

Response from college requested: **NO**

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**

Collaborative Report

Exam board meeting: 13-Oct-2015

Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing, 2014/15 (Intake 2013)

Lead examiner: Mrs Andrea Jeffrey

Collaborating examiner(s): Ms Danielle Banks

The Programme

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

1.1 Course content

There have been no changes to the course content in the last 12 month period , all the module descriptors were available for this external examination period , in order that the aims and learning outcomes could be checked

Response from college requested: NO

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

clear mapping of learning outcomes to the timetable and assessments

Response from college requested: NO

1.3 Teaching methods

the majority of this programme is via distance learning and therefore there is a reliance on the virtual learning platform to engage with students while they are at a distance from the college. This is done successfully

Response from college requested: NO

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

the surgical nursing extended patient care reports did not have feedback sheets attached but the reason for this was explained during the visit and it has been confirmed that , if feedback continues in this format that all modules will have feedback sheets for the students for 2015/16

Course Director's Response: We confirm if grading continues in this format all modules will use paper based sheets.

Response from college requested: NO

1.5 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the Programme

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

I am currently the external examiner for one other institution which offers the RCVS Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing and the students performance on this programme is comparable

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

All fail candidates work was reviewed during this visit along with candidates in the middle and top of the grade ranges.In total 17/19 students work was reviewed across the five modules under review during this visit. The marking criteria are clear and the markers have used it correctly, the moderation process is robust and the markers have followed the 'Marking RVC Examinations' document.

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

Response from college requested: **NO**

Assessment Procedures

Please comment, as appropriate, on:

3.1 Assessment methods (relevance to learning objectives and curriculum)

there is continuity in the assessment methods across the modules reviewed during this visit ,and these entail MCQ and short answer one hour question papers , ~~2~~two 2000 word extended patient case reports and OSPVEs

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.2 Extent to which assessment procedures are rigorous

clear assessment procedures which are adhered to, there have been no issues highlighted during this visit

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

There has been a decision by the University to apply for Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) accreditation for the Graduate Diploma in 2015 in order that students who graduate can also be awarded the RCVS Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.4 Standard of marking

Marking is carried out in accordance with the RVC Marking Examinations Policy , using either the Common Grading Scheme or the 10 point marking scheme depending on the assessment being used

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)

All procedures relating to assessment and the determining of awards are sound and are fairly conducted

Response from college requested: **NO**

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

not applicable for 2015

Response from college requested: **NO**

3.7 Please provide any additional comments and recommendations regarding the procedures

Response from college requested: **NO**

General Statements

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:

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

NO

Response from college requested: NO

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