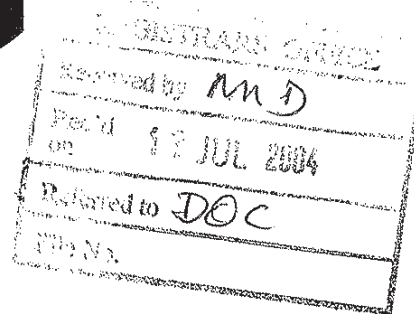


HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING AWARDS COUNCIL

Comhairle na nDámbachtairí Ardoideachais agus Oiliúna



Dr Diarmuid O'Callaghan
Registrar
Institute of Technology Blanchardstown
Blanchardstown Road North
Dublin 15

Thursday, 08 July 2004

Re: Quality Assurance Agreement

Dear Diarmuid,

May I begin by apologising sincerely for the long delay in circulating this report to your Institute. As you will see from the enclosed report a panel met to consider your quality assurance submission in January.

Largely speaking the panel were impressed with the submission and the efforts which the Institute have put into capturing complex and multifaceted procedures in one document.

The panel report focuses mainly on the areas where the panel felt the manual could be improved. The panel has recommended that HETAC agree these procedures subject to some minor amendments.

We would be pleased if you could respond to the report so that we can progress the quality assurance to agreement.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Orlaith Mc Caul
Head of Quality Assurance and Learner Assessment

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Findings of Expert Panel on the Quality Assurance Submission of Institute of Technology Blanchardstown

Panel Meeting: HETAC 12th January 2004

Panel Chair: Attracta Halpin
Assistant Registrar
National University of Ireland

Panel Members: Staffan Wahlén
Utrede/Senior Advisor
Utvärderingsavdelningen/Department of Evaluation
Högskoleverket/National Agency for Higher Education
Stockholm
Sweden

Dr. Angelika Schade
Geschäftsstelle des Akkreditierungsrates
Lennéstraße , Bonn

In attendance: Dr. Orlaith Mc Caul
Head of Quality Assurance and Learner Assessment
HETAC

Under the Qualifications (Education and Training) Act, 1999 providers of higher education and training programmes validated by the Higher Education and Training Awards Council, or to which the Council has delegated the power to make awards, are required to establish quality assurance procedures and to agree those procedures with the Council. To meet this requirement Institute of Technology Blanchardstown submitted for review its quality assurance procedures. The procedures have been reviewed by a panel of experts, the findings of which are set out below.

The panel complemented the college on a concise document which was well laid out and clearly articulated. However the panel had the following concerns:

- (1) Whilst the system for quality assurance is well described the readers found it difficult to pin point where the exact responsibility for quality assurance lay within the organisational structure.
- (2) The panel felt that the management group's terms of reference could have a specific focus on the monitoring and evaluation of quality assurance procedures.
- (3) The panel found that the statement of policy on quality assurance was insufficient and required further development. In doing so the panel recommend that the Institute relate the statement more closely its mission.
- (4) In revising the document the panel recommend completion of the sections dealing with services, staff selection, appraisal and development and on the evaluation of effectiveness of quality assurance procedures.
- (5) The panel found no evidence of resources in place for quality assurance development and recommend a strong commitment of resources to enable quality assurance development at the Institute.

Overall Recommendation: Agree subject to minor amendments