The University of Edinburgh

Internal Periodic Review

14 week response report

Internal Periodic Review of:

Date of review: 26-28th April 2022

Date of 14 week response: September 2022

The School/Subject Area is responsible for reporting on progress with all recommendations, including those remitted to other areas of the University for action.

If any recommendation has been fully addressed please record the action taken and date completed. Any barriers to progress should be highlighted on this report.

Recommendation no	Recommendation	Timescale for completion	Comment on progress towards completion and/or identify barriers to completion	Completion date
1	Redesigning assessment (remit item): The review team recommends that the school continues to explore ways to redesign assessment and is supportive of the proposed move to pass/fail assessment results. The review team also recommends that reflective practice as a form of assessment is introduced formally to students from first year.	June 2023 (for relevant courses)	Work is ongoing as part of new curriculum roll out and ongoing evolution of curriculum. 4 th year away day confirmed strong support for assessment changes. Sessions on reflective practice already exist in professional and clinical skills courses but these will be further developed in coming cycle and in line with revised learning outcomes	
2	Student Voice policy: The review team recommends that the School further enhances the mechanisms to communicate to students on how their feedback is used and the reasons for when no action was taken. The school should work to increase student and staff understanding of the SV process.	October 2022	QAEC and LTC are considering further evolution of processes with specific focus on communication of the many routes that already exist. Thought being given to how to engage stduents with the challenging title 'Student Voice Policy'. Meeting scheduled 23/09/2022 with DVSU to solicit feedback on new plan	
3	Return to campus (communication): The School has progressed with its plans and strategies for their approach and the review team supports the decision to return to campus with face-to-face teaching and learning from academic year commencing 2022/23. The review team recommends that flexibility is incorporated into this approach to retain the advantages of online learning, and that communication on this topic, particularly with students, is carefully managed to address the reasoning and expectations for return to campus.	October 2022	We will incorporate flexibility where we believe it is not at the detriment of community building, professional development and student wellbeing. Many discussions in recent months within the veterinary education community have confirmed the predominant model will return to in person teaching. Flexibility will be offered via lecture recordings and opportunities for practical class swaps where for example medical or other appointments necessitate	
4	Return to campus (logistics): The review team recommends that the School ensures it is operating at full capacity if students are required to be present on campus for most/all their learning.	Complete	We continue to aim to make timetables as pragmatic as possible however need to highlight that students see one 'lens' on the timetable and may not understand the complexity running	

5	Support for Postgraduate Tutors and	October2022	behind it e.g. being able to timetable multiple small groups in multiple venues that overlap will mean that the day cannot always be as efficiently coordinated as an individual stduent might like. That said, as the situation with the pandemic has improved, the campus has been in effect running at full capacity since April 2022. Work is ongoing with the academic lead for tutors and
	Demonstrators: The review team recommends that the School explores mechanisms to formalise the feedback loop between academic staff and Postgraduate Tutors and Demonstrators		demonstrators to further develop support and feedback mechanisms
6	Wider community: The review team recommends that the School explores ways to build relationships with the wider University for the benefit of the student experience.	June 2023	We will explore options but note the issues with transport make this a challenge. We are also mindful that a number of students reside in the vicinity of the school and it is difficult to get a solution that works for all. Centrally timetabled classes were extremely unpopular when we tried this a number of years ago. We will continue to consider other options to help our stduents feel not only part of the school but part of the wider University also
7	Central University: The review team recommends that a policy issued from the central University around hybrid learning and working would support the School as they progress with their plans for their return to campus. The review team recommends that the central University engages with the School with the aim of ensuring that the resources are most appropriate for the School and its needs.		At this stage, our plans are firmly developed and by necessity had to be enacted without any guidance from the Centre. We continue to push for consideration of more appropriate e-assessment tools, in particular an e-portfolio that is more fit for purpose than pebblepad. Meeting is planned with IS to discuss and in meantime we continue to conduct our own research on best practice from elsewhere
	Please report on steps taken to feedback to students on the outcomes of the review	We have discureps.	ssed the feedback/ report with DVSU and also discussed at LTC with student
For Year on response only	Any examples of a positive change as a result of the review		