UGC Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review

As mentioned in the last issue, the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review (TLQPR) Panel of the University Grants Committee (UGC) will conduct its review visit to HKUST in April.

Background

In January 1995, the UGC resolved to undertake TLQPRs of the UGC-funded institutions with a view to ensuring that mechanisms for promoting and improving teaching and learning quality in institutions are in place and functioning as they should be. The first round of TLQPR visits to the seven institutions has been scheduled to be completed by January 1997. Two institutions - HKU and CUHK - have been visited since January this year. Each of the TLQPR visits will entail the preparation of review documentation by the University administration prior to the visit, a discussion session between the Panel and institutional staff to clarify what the Review is about, visits to the institution at all levels, and the production of a review report.

The goals of the TLQPRs are to:

(a) focus attention on teaching and learning as the primary mission of the institutions;

(b) assist institutions in their efforts to improve the quality of teaching and learning; and

(c) enable the UGC to discharge its obligation to maintain accountability for the quality of teaching and learning.

The broad themes which the TLQPR Panel will cover in the review process include:

(a) Curriculum design
(b) Pedagogical design
(c) Implementation quality
(d) Outcome assessment
(e) Resource provision

UGC TLQPR Visit

The following is the schedule for the TLQPR Panel visit to HKUST:

11 April 1996

09:00 - 09:45 am Meeting with leadership group
09:45 - 11:30 am Plenary session
11:30 - 11:45 am Tea break
11:45 am - 12:30 pm Meeting with students
12 April 1996

09:00 - 10:00 am Preparation for closing meeting*
10:00 - 11:30 am Closing session with plenary group
11:30 am - 12:00 pm Wash-up*

* Only Panel members will be present.

At the opening meeting, the Panel will meet with the HKUST "leadership group" composed of members of the University Administrative Committee, the two AVP-AAs, and Professor Donald George, PG consultant (former AVP-AA). Its purpose would be to get the leadership's personal perspectives on the institution's teaching and learning quality strengths and weaknesses as well as to resolve any open questions regarding the visit. The discussion will focus on the University's quality assurance and improvement process.

The plenary sessions will include a broader cross-section of faculty and staff involved in teaching quality assurance processes. In addition to the "leadership group", members of the Senate Committees on Undergraduate Studies and Postgraduate Studies, and Associate Deans will be invited. Students will also be involved in the plenary sessions (about 20 - 25 as suggested by UGC).

The visit in the afternoon of 11 April will be to selected departments and units. About four weeks before the visit (i.e. around the middle of March), we will know the specific departments and units selected, and can set up the final aspects of the logistics for the departmental/unit visits.

Following the Review visit, the UGC will produce a Review report, based on observations made by the Review Panel during its visit to the University. Prior to finalising the report, the TLQPR Panel will invite the University to comment on matters of fact and clarity and also as regards tone and style, though not as regards the Panel's findings. The final report will eventually be made available to the public by the University.

Internal TLQPR Visits

Prior to the UGC TLQPR visit, a series of internal visits, structured along the lines of the departmental visits of the TLQPR Panel teams and covering all academic departments, will be conducted from 8 - 13 March. These visits will play a dual role. First of all, they are a "dress rehearsal" for the UGC's visit in April. Feedback from our internal visit teams can help departments (almost half of them will be visited by a UGC team) get prepared for the "real" visits.

At least as important, however, is that a comprehensive schedule of visits to all departments, done before they know which of them will be selected by UGC, highlights to all of them the importance of their teaching programmes, and will give us for the first time a broad overview of how they commit to quality.
The schedule of the internal visits is:

8 March 1996

MBA and Undergraduate Programme (SBM)  Biology  Industrial Engineering Management
Biology  Industrial Engineering Management
Chemistry  Economics  Chemical Engineering
Information & Systems Management  Finance  Computer Science
Accounting

11 March 1996

Chemistry  Economics  Chemical Engineering
Information & Systems Management  Finance  Computer Science
Accounting

13 March 1996

Physics  Electrical & Electronic Engineering  Humanities and Social Science Divisions
Marketing  Mathematics  Civil & Structural Engineering

The visits will be conducted by three teams, corresponding to the columns in the table above. The members are as follows:

Team 1  Team 2  Team 3
Prof. Donald George (Leader)  Prof. Peter Dobson (Leader)  Prof. Vincent Shen (Leader)
Dr. K.L. Chow (BIOL)  Dr. Neville Lee (IEEM)  Dr. W.Y. Tam (PHYS)
Dr. Murray Frank (FINA)  Dr. Olivia Shen (ISMT)  Dr. Kenneth Law (MGTO)
Dr. K.K. Chan (HUMA)  Dr. K.M. Yip (HUMA)  Dr. Kimberly Chang (SOSC)

The Review will give us the opportunity to demonstrate and gain an overview of our commitment to the objective of achieving a very high standard of teaching and learning quality. It is an important event of the University which requires our serious effort and input.

Shain-Dow Kung
Vice-President for Academic Affairs
March 1996

University Appointments and Substantiation Committee (UASC)

Between 1 January 1996 and 29 February 1996, the UASC had reviewed 6 senior appointments, 2 academic review cases, and 1
From 1 January 1996 to 29 February 1996, the University had made 27 academic appointment offers. As of 29 February 1996, 12 appointees had accepted and 15 had not replied.

Upon the retreat of Professor Chih-Kang SHEN to a professorial position effective from 1 July 1996, the following faculty members were appointed by the Dean of Engineering, in consultation with VP-AA, to serve on the Search Committee for the Head of Civil and Structural Engineering:

Chairman : Professor Joe MIZE, AVP-RD and Professor of Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management

Members : Dr. Philip CHAN, Acting Head and Reader of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Professor Paul CHANG, Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering

Dr. Mark DAVIDSON, Lecturer of Civil and Structural Engineering

Dr. Irene LO, Assistant Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering

Professor Chih-Kang SHEN, Head and Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering

Professor Ben-Chie YEN, Visiting Professor of Civil and Structural Engineering

Faculty Members (31) came on board in January and February 1996

School of Science (5)

Department of Biology

Professor Dennis P. HSIEH, Vis Professor, ScD MIT

Department of Chemistry

Dr. Peijun CONG, Lecturer, PhD Caltech
Department of Mathematics

Dr. Qiang DU, Associate Professor, PhD Carnegie Mellon Univ

Professor David W. MASSER, Vis Professor, PhD Univ of Cambridge

Department of Physics

Professor Lui LAM, Vis Professor, PhD Columbia Univ

School of Engineering (15)

Department of Chemical Engineering

Professor J.P. BARFORD, Vis Professor, PhD Univ of New South Wales

Department of Civil and Structural Engineering

Dr. Kenny C. S. KWOK, Vis Associate Professor, PhD Monash Univ

Dr. Duc Thai NGUYEN, Vis Associate Professor, PhD Univ of Iowa

Dr. Douglas B. RIGBY, Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of Arizona

Professor Wilson TANG, Professor, PhD Stanford Univ

Mr. Kim-Choy YEUNG, Part-time Lecturer, Bsc Univ of Hong Kong

Department of Computer Science

Dr. Bo LI, Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of Massachusetts

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Dr. Mansun J. CHAN, Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of California, Berkeley

Dr. Chin-Tau LEA, Associate Professor, PhD Univ of Washington

Professor Frank L. LEWIS, Vis Professor, PhD Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr. Steven H. LOW, Vis Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of California, Berkeley

Department of Industrial Engineering and Engineering Management

Dr. Vincent G. DUFFY, Assistant Professor, PhD Purdue Univ

Department of Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Chung Nin KO, Part-time Lecturer, PhD London Univ

Dr. Joe W. N. LAU, Part-time Lecturer, PhD Univ of Glasgow
Dr. Jingshen WU, Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of Sydney

School of Business and Management (10)
Department of Accounting

Dr. Sanjay KALLAPUR, Vis Assistant Professor, PhD Harvard Univ

Department of Economics

Professor J. Ernest TANNER, Vis Scholar, PhD Brown Univ

Department of Finance

Dr. V. Ravi ANSHUMAN, Vis Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of Utah

Department of Information and Systems Management

Dr. Patrice BERTAIL, Vis Scholar, PhD Univ Paris IX

Professor Edward A. STOHR, Vis Professor, PhD Univ of California, Berkeley

Dr. J. Leon ZHAO, Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of California, Berkeley

Department of Management of Organisations

Professor Geroge B. GRAEN, Vis Professor, PhD Univ of Minnesota

Dr. Peter W. HOM, Vis Reader, PhD Univ of Illinois, Champaign

Dr. Yoram ZEIRA, Vis Reader, PhD New York Univ

Department of Marketing

Dr. Annamma JOY, Vis Scholar, PhD Univ of British Columbia

School of Humanities and Social Science (1)

Division of Humanities

Dr. Simon M. H. WONG, Assistant Professor, PhD Univ of Toronto

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Distinguished Lecture on Teaching and Learning
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As part of its on-going emphasis on the importance of our teaching mission, the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs will be co-sponsoring, with the Office of Public Affairs, a lecture by Professor Judith Rodin, President of the University of Pennsylvania. Professor Rodin will speak on

"Undergraduate Education in the 21st Century"
at 1 pm on 29 March 1996 in Lecture Theatre C.

RGC-funded Projects
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Congratulations to the principal investigators of the following completed projects which have been assessed by the Research Grant Council (RGC) as "Excellent" (the top grade):

"An empirical investigation into dimensions of difficulty in comprehension of the academic English of science and technology" - Dr. Gregory James (Principal Investigator)

"Structure and Function of Transfer RNA for Tryptophan" - Prof. Jeffrey T F Wong (Principal Investigator)