



Academic & Student Support Services
Academic Registrar Simon Wright LLB
Gwasanaethau Academaidd a Chefnogi Myfyrwyr
Cofrestrwydd Academaidd Simon Wright LLB

Cardiff University
McKenzie House
30-36 Newport Road
Cardiff CF24 0DE

Tel *Ffôn* I +44(0)29 2087 9189
www.cardiff.ac.uk

Prifysgol Caerdydd
Tŷ McKenzie
30-36 Heol Casnewydd
Caerdydd CF24 0DE

Sent by email to s.winder@sheffield.ac.uk

24 June 2016

Dear Professor Winder,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2015– 2016

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc in Tissue Engineering.

Your Report has been considered by the School in accordance with our approved procedures. I am, therefore, now in a position to respond on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor to the main points you had raised.

Issue(s) Highlighted

1. Your indication that, for an identified module, there was no evidence that assessments had been scrutinised by a second member of staff.
2. In light of the School's current marking and scrutinising practices, your related encouragement for the use of second blind marking for examination scripts.

The following response has been provided on behalf of the School:

1. The School reports that there were some exceptional circumstances that contributed to this situation and that they are confident that there will be no re-occurrence in future years.
2. The Programme Board of Studies has discussed this issue to ensure that the scrutiniser makes a fully independent assessment of the work provided. The

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Programme Team are confident that current practices are fit for purpose and meet current University guidelines.

Your comments have, however, been noted and will inform further consideration of current University guidance on the reliability and consistency of marking.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process
2. your report of a well balanced variety of assessment methods;
3. your particular commendation of the use of plagiarism detection software and of feedback provided to markers, external examiner and students.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and we thank you for your continued support of the programme.

As this is your final year as External Examiner, we would like to thank you for your service and we are most grateful for your valuable input into this process.

In order to meet the expectations of the QAA Quality Code, both the External Examiner Annual Report and this Institutional Response will be published on the University website and will be available to all students and staff.

The University's provision of the formal Institutional Response is not intended to constrain direct communication between schools and their External Examiners. Schools are encouraged to discuss with their External Examiners any matters of detail raised in their Reports and, more widely, any issues impacting on the quality and standards of awards, including possible changes to programmes.

We are most grateful for your comments and for your support in this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright
Academic Registrar