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**Sent by email to Professor Eustace Johnson**

**09 April 2019**

Dear Professor Johnson,

**Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2017/18**

I am writing further to the receipt of your report for MSc in Tissue Engineering.

Your report has been considered by the School and is the basis of this Institutional Response on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. The School will also use its contents to help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process and where appropriate, [Periodic Review](#).

**Issues highlighted in your report:**

1. It would be helpful if all scripts were annotated, even as a summary “overall feedback” as in DET002 (Research Methods).
2. Consider how the “agreed” mark is arrived at, whether this is simply a mean of 2 independent marks, through a discussion following independent marking, or involves input from a 3rd party when there is a substantial difference between the two marks.
3. Consider review of assessment models to consider whether 3 different assessments for each taught module are needed.
4. The opportunity to hear the students present/discuss their research would be appreciated.

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## Response provided by the School:

1. Thank you for your suggestion to annotate all scripts. Module leads have been asked to annotate and provide overall feedback to students for the Essay and Presentation assessments this year, this will be through the Turnitin online platform. We hope the feedback will also be of use to you. Examinations prove more challenging as scripts are scanned as PDFs and individually disseminated to markers. In the case of entirely essay-based examinations, such as DET002 (Tissue Engineering from Concept to Clinical Practice), markers have provided written comments justifying the marks awarded for the 2018-19 cohort. This would not be feasible for short answer questions, however it will be considered by the programme team for the other essay-style questions in DET033 and BIT001 for the 2019-20 cohort.
2. The Programme team acknowledge that standardising how the agreed mark is arrived at will benefit future cohorts and offer more transparency. Currently, methods differ depending on the module lead's preference. This will be discussed at the next programme meeting. It is envisaged that going forward, a mean score between 2 markers will be generated and if marks differ substantially then discussions will be held between the markers to come to an agreement on the final mark.
3. Whilst we acknowledge that over assessment, in particular when assignments overlap, may be detrimental to student performance and experience, the number of assessments per module was originally designed to ensure student engagement in a certain number of self-directed learning hours. We feel that coursework encourages critical thinking and develops research and generic skills. The programme team will consider altering the number of summative assessments and explore incorporating more interactive formative assessments in their place for the upcoming 2019-20 cohort.
4. We would like to formally invite you to attend the Cardiff Institute of Tissue Engineering and Repair (CITER) conference taking place in Swansea on the 23rd and 24th September 2019. This would provide you with the opportunity to meet with students and discuss their research during the poster sessions and give you the opportunity to hear student experiences towards the end of their programme. It would also give you the opportunity to gain an overview of the research being carried within the CITER network and meet with supervisors and lecturers. If you would like to attend, please inform the School's Postgraduate Office [dentalpgoffice@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:dentalpgoffice@cardiff.ac.uk) or the Programme Director [AyreWN@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:AyreWN@cardiff.ac.uk) who will be happy to help with arrangements.

**The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:**

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process.
2. Alignment of programme content and research dissertations with the research interests and expertise of the staff.
3. Quality of content that covers:
  - the breadth and depth of tissue engineering;
  - is up to date and looking to the future;
  - translation of research to clinical application, including logistic/ethical issues;
  - that encourages critical thinking and awareness.
4. The variety of laboratory research techniques experienced by students.

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

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's [Public Information website](#) and will be available to all students and staff.

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

Yours sincerely,



Mr Simon Wright  
Academic Registrar