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Sent by email to klw@aber.ac.uk

15 January 2021

Dear Dr Woodward,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2019/20

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's report for the JOMEC Undergraduate Welsh Language provision.

Your report does not appear to raise any significant issues that require a more detailed response, however the School have been asked to note the following comments:

Occasionally the assessment criteria seems overly long, with up to 9 individual criteria, and I wonder if there would be value in rationalisation. I'd suggest at times that feedback might be linked more explicitly to the criteria, and a rationalised list of criteria could facilitate this.

I am confident that the Programme Team will endeavour to address the issues identified in your report and your comments will help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process.

Degree Outcomes

Whilst you have not raised this as a concern in your report from a subject specific point of view, the Chair of the Academic Standards and Quality Committee has asked the School to review their degree outcomes profile as there has been a significant rise in first class honours degrees during 2019/20 compared with other years.

The School will be required to look at this in detail to try and understand any underlying factors that may have contributed to this both positive and negative. I am sure you will agree that it is important we ensure that academic standards are appropriately set and maintained with reference to external expectations in line with



our responsibility to publish a Degree Outcomes Statement as specified by the UK Standing Committee for Quality Assessment (UKSCQA) Statement of Intent to protect the value of UK degrees.

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

1. Your positive comments regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process.
2. Confirmation that the actions taken as a result of the variation of assessments in relation to industrial action and Covid-19 have been appropriate to protect the academic standards of the programme and have allowed students to achieve their programme level learning outcomes.
3. The 4 modules that I looked at complement each other. Links are made between them. I particularly like the way that the first session of 'Ystafell Newyddion 2' looked back on what had been learnt in 'Ystafell Newyddion 1'.
4. The strong industry links are of immense value and help students to make connections between the theory and practice.
5. Learning materials were highly responsive, for example linking 'Cyfathrebu mewn argyfwng' (Communication during a crisis) to the current pandemic.
6. Feedback is fair, detailed, constructive, consistent and gives suggestions for improvement, even at the highest level.
7. The variation in student language skill is dealt with constructively and sensitively, ensuring what can be a difficult balance of critique and support.
8. The sheer number of students enrolled on these Welsh language modules is highly impressive, and speaks volume about the reputation of the staff, the modules, and the alumnus. This is to be warmly congratulated.

I hope that you will find this response satisfactory and we 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