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Sent by email to Professor Karl Malcolm

27 July 2018

Dear Professor Malcolm,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's report for the MPharm (Drug Delivery).

Your report does not appear to raise any specific issues that require a more detailed response therefore the School has not been asked to provide a formal response.

Your report will be considered by the School and will also be used to help inform their [Annual Review and Enhancement](#) process and where appropriate, [Periodic Review](#).

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

1. your positive comments regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. The course makes use of a wide range of teaching methods, including lectures, workshops, seminars, laboratory classes, placements, projects, computer-assisted learning and directed study
3. The course is taught by a dedicated and experienced staff team with appropriate expertise across a wide range of relevant disciplines.
4. The MPharm degree at Cardiff University is of a very high standard, and on a par with other leading UK Schools of Pharmacy.

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5. PH2107 – Well-designed worksheet / Robust marking scheme / Clear annotation of marks.
6. PH2203 – The relatively high mean mark for this module was noted (75.3%, no fails), with high marks allocated across all three sections of the assessment (MCQ, B1 and B2).
7. School of Pharmacy staff members introduced the examination procedures and paperwork to the new external examiners and were on hand during the visit to offer help and advice and deal with queries. All the necessary paperwork was provided in a specially-prepared examiners room. Helpfully, the most relevant paperwork and sample examination scripts were pulled in advance and carefully presented on individual tables for the examiners. All the exam scripts were accessible to examiners, and coursework material was provided on a USB drive.
8. Generally, exam scripts were very clearly annotated and it was easy to see where marks were allocated.
9. The 'reflective learning' component in many modules, and particularly the final year project module, was noteworthy. Students seemed to genuinely engage with this practice, with many insightful comments.
10. Most of the exam papers I reviewed sought to assess the students' knowledge in a highly integrated manner. Of particular note was the PH4117 exam paper.

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