

Academic & Student Support Services
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Simon Wright LLB



Sent by email to j.dinwoodie@plymouth.ac.uk

17 August 2015

Dear Professor Dinwoodie,

Re: Institutional Response: External Examiner Annual Report 2014 – 2015

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MSc in International Transport / Marine Policy / Logistics & Operations Management and the MSc in Lean Systems.

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. Samples should include all fails and all distinctions;
2. Feedback is offered, but it needs to be much more constructive. On some assessments marking was limited to ticks and a number;

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

1. Current University regulations stipulate that a sample from across the range of marks is provided to external examiners so that they may review the reliability and consistency of marking. The School welcomes the comments of Professor Dinwoodie in this area however and will feed these in to a review of second marking, moderation and sampling policies within the School.
2. The Programme Directors welcome the comments of Professor Dinwoodie with regard to both Examination scripts and to Coursework & Practical Assessments. We will inform Module Leaders of the comments to ensure that in future both scripts and coursework will include more details and constructive comments on the marking. This line of action will also be raised, discussed and recorded in the forthcoming meeting

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;

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