

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



Sent by email to sianw@liverpool.ac.uk

29 July 2015

Dear Dr Alexander-White,

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

I am writing further to the receipt of your External Examiner's Report for the MB BCH (Intermediate, years 3 General Practice)

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. The construction of OSCE stations to avoid students being at an advantage with particular reference to the kidney stone station before the loin pain station;
2. The addition of a free text box for actors to complete in case there was something that was important to feed back to the students for example if the 'patient' had been upset;
3. Slight variations in the Examiner feedback form given to students;

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

1. Unfortunately this had not been thought of during the construction of the OSCE and it was not picked up during scrutiny. In the future, the team will ensure that the two communication stations have a different focus as the team will ensure that they are mapped to the overall blueprint.
2. This has been discussed with the Communication and clinical skills lead for the OSCE. The present system (of the examiner giving free text feedback and the actor choosing from a list of potential descriptors for the student) is a pragmatic one given the very limited time between stations – just 90 seconds in the year 3 OSCE. The team will review this when planning next year – the actor could potentially inform the examiner if they feel that they want other information to be documented.
3. Although all sheets had been scrutinised by several academics in Cardiff and by external examiners, this minor error occurred. As stated it was corrected and no student was disadvantaged. It was documented and discussed at the subsequent Exam Board.

The University is pleased to note your positive comments including:

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1. Your positive indications regarding the programme structure, academic standards and assessment process;
2. Your positive comments regarding the Year 3 Resit Data Interpretation Paper where there was a good mix of common emergency presentations which will test good clinical knowledge and ability to follow instructions when under pressure.
3. Your commendation of the Panel meeting to discuss the learning outcomes and rank by what is important for a new doctor to know;
4. The diligence of the academics and support staff.

As this is your final year as External Examiner, we would like to thank you for your service and your 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 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